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# Sea Angler

## SUMMER'S

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ISSUE 611

July 2022



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V-JOINT





# WELCOME

ISSUE 611

JULY 2022

**G**ood news appears to be very thin on the ground at the moment. Whether it's the threat of nuclear war with Russia, the cost of living crisis or the risk of contracting the delightfully named new virus, monkeypox, there's never been more reason to switch your news feed off, get outside and go fishing. Now summer has arrived (doesn't it come around quickly?) I hope you can decompress and let your worries wash away with a rod in hand on holiday, if you are lucky enough to be going away with family or friends this season.

With that in mind this issue brings you a great selection of summer holiday Where To Fish locations from around the country, such as Tenby, Newquay, Weston-Super-Mare and Suffolk. We've also got some great features on holiday fishing trips abroad and here in the UK with features on fishing two of the most popular Canary Island resorts from the shore and afloat as well as expert advice on how to target Essex bass (page 6), and a lads' weekend away skate fishing in Scotland (page 57).

Henry Gilbey provides some great advice on how to make the most of the limited opportunities to get a spot of fishing in on a family holiday when spending time with the kids or grandkids is (or should be!) the priority (page 49).

I hope you enjoy reading James Madsen's review of Cox & Rawle's new range of ready to fish Dongle rigs (page 83). Not only do they look excellent but James provides a great summary of where the 'Dingle Dangle' rig, as it was originally known, came from and why there is so much interest in it from the UK sea angling community.

Don't miss out on the chance to win over £400 of Daiwa lure fishing kit in our fantastic competition (page 110). With a Daiwa Saltist travel rod and BG reel on offer it's the perfect set up to pack in the car or your suitcase over the summer.

Do make time to read about the new bass fishery management

plan (FMP) which is being developed by the Government. Whether it will make any difference and whether anglers will really be involved remains to be seen but the experts from BASS and save Our Sea Bass explain all including how you can get involved.

Finally, an update on last month's bluefin tuna CHART programme news is that the Welsh Government has given the green light for a Welsh atlantic bluefin 'CHART' programme to go ahead this autumn. This is the culmination of a several years of campaigning by the former Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers, now known as Angling Cymru Sea Anglers (ACSA), several Welsh charter skippers, and supported by the Bluefin Tuna UK team.

Hopes are still high that a Northern Irish programme will be established this year too while Scotland has already agreed its own programme for 2022. As a result, this year may see an opportunity for an adventurous angler to seek a home nations 'Grand slam' of catching, tagging and releasing bluefin in English, Welsh, Northern Irish and Scottish waters. Legendary status awaits whoever successfully achieve this feat first. All this just 12 months after the first legal fishing opportunity was established under the CHART programme. Exciting times ahead!

Next month, along with our regular features, is our summer species special with tips, advice, new techniques and stories on how to target bass, bream, mullet, mackerel and a host of other warm water species which make July and August such great months to be a sea angler. We'll also be reporting back on the Sea Angling Classic boat fishing competition and offering you the chance to win yet another great tackle prize.

Until next month, here's to leaving life's worries and stresses behind with a summer of action-packed sea angling adventures, new fishing challenges set, and old fishing friends.

Until next month, tight lines.  
David

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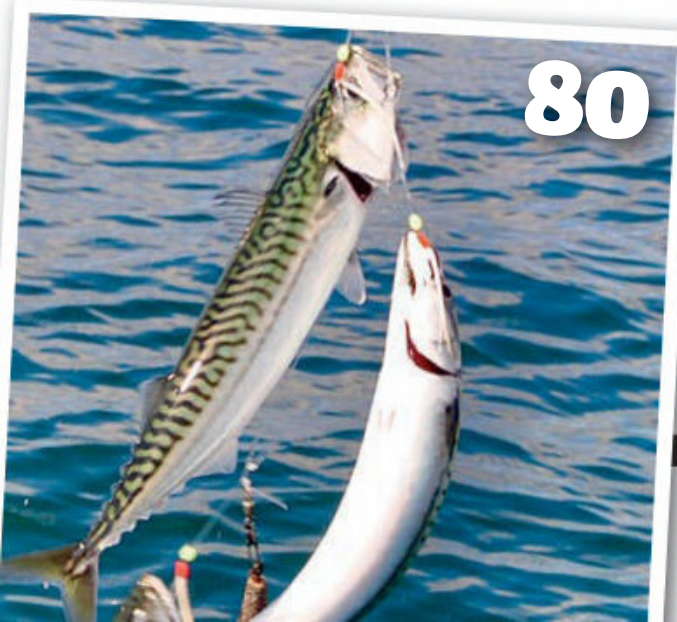
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# THE BIG PICTURE

## SeaAngler

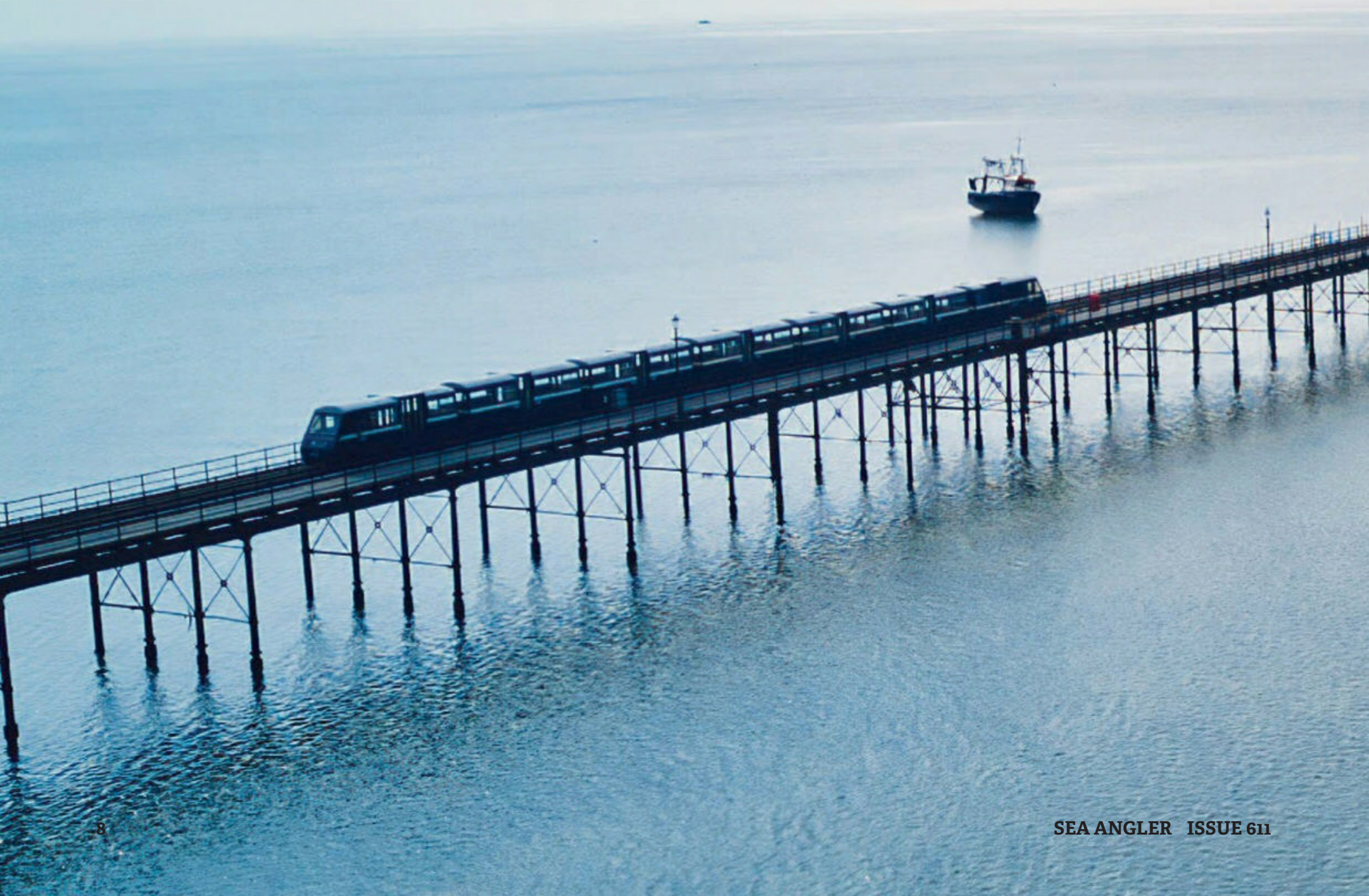






# THE ONLY WAY IS ESSEX

Heading to the Essex coast this summer?  
John Popplewell shares the secrets to success for bass  
fishing in the shallow waters of his home county





**T**he Essex coast has always been a great place to head for targeting bass, and with some local knowledge it can produce some very big bass too! Don't be afraid to ask in your local fishing tackle shop; this is always the first place to head for and they will be all too willing to provide valuable information and supply that all important bait.

## BAIT

Bass can be caught on all types of bait: squid, fish baits, ragworm, lugworm, shellfish and peeler crabs. All these have their place at certain times and in certain weather conditions, but if there is one go to bait for all conditions on the Essex coast then it has to be ragworm. Bass absolutely love to munch on a lively ragworm!

Hooked through the head and gently cast into the surf, ragworm can be deadly. You can use the same method with the rag just enticingly dropped down the side of a jetty or pier, which can produce immediate bites. If there's no tide run, then a long trace on a needle point hook baited with a wild, angry ragworm could catch you that biggest bass of a lifetime.

I have also found squid will work well for bass in rough weather. Try the same bait during a calm spell and it doesn't really have the same effect; the reason being bass will forage and attack baits during rough and murky seas and bites can be rod bending!



**Bass can be found hunting in just inches of water**



**Southend on Sea Pier -- try a big fish bait fished down the side of a pile**



**A selection of lures for bass**



**Ragworm is a top bait for Essex bass**



Peeler crab is also a good bait although sometimes difficult to source during the late summer months. A whole soft crab or peeler whipped on to a 2/0-3/0 hook will produce bass of all sizes too.

Fish baits are not really used that much on the Essex coast for bass, but I find those twilight hours into dark work the best and I tend to use really big fish bait, usually half a Bluey or mackerel. Southend, Clacton and Walton piers can produce big bass using a large fish bait fished down the side of the pier piles. It can be a waiting game and after dark is best, but when a bass hits the bait hang on to that rod as it lurches over and the butt is level with your eyes!

## ESTUARY BASS

The Essex rivers and backwaters are a haven for bass during the summer months with plenty of school bass and who knows, your next bite could be a double figure fish. Keep your fishing gear light, big bass can be hooked and netted **on just** a feeder rod. Most of the time I use a carp rod, a 4000 size fixed spool reel loaded with 10lb line, a few 2oz/3oz leads and size 2 hooks. Add a few ragworm and you can be in for some great sport.

A cast of a few yards into a shallow estuary can put you right on the nose of feeding bass, they will forage in just a couple of feet of water. A long flowing baited ragworm with rig waving enticingly in the tide flow can be deadly.

Those bait robbing shore crabs can be a problem in the estuaries, munching our valuable bait within a few minutes and nipping off the hook traces! If this becomes a problem its always worth adding a couple of floating beads and going heavier on the hook trace, 30lb trace line will still see you catching bass.

## SHORE BASS

Continental rods are the modern way forward when it comes to bass fishing on these flat beaches. Their lightness and fine tips are second to none. A bass hooked this way is a memory etched forever.

We are blessed with some great sea defences here on our low-lying south-east Essex coast; from the recently formed fish tail Norwegian granite breakwaters stretching out into the North Sea, to our old Victorian wooden structures. Bass love a structure of any sort to forage round and a carefully placed bait at the end of a breakwater, or along the side of any obstruction, can pay dividends.

There's no need to cast too far for open shore bass. Yes, there will be bass at distance, but the majority will be less than 50 meters out. There are plenty of methods to try, from a pulley Pennell to two hook flappers: all will catch bass. I find keeping things very simple, as long as you have a long flowing trace and a presentable bait, means you are in with a very good chance of some finding some fish and connecting with some bites!

Peeler crab is a great summer bass bait



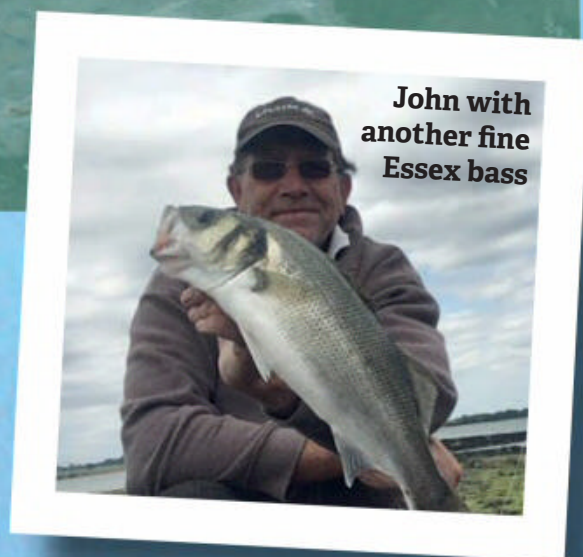
Floating beads help avoid pesky crabs







Work your bait at different depths until you find the bass



John with another fine Essex bass

Clacton Pier—where you can leave the family at the arcades!



## FLOAT FISHING

For those anglers who fancy some float fishing, this method can be deadly from piers and breakwaters. A trace baited with a ragworm hooked through the head and worked through the current at variable depths can be an exciting way to fish. I tend to start with my hook bait just under the float and then work my way slowly down to the seabed every few minutes until I start getting bites. Live or frozen prawns work well on this method, squid cut into long strips and just nicked on the hook can be deadly too. It's a case of trial and error, but once you have worked it out then sport can be hectic.

## LURE FISHING

A few years ago we wouldn't be talking about any form of lure fishing from the open beaches, but with our recently formed Norwegian granite sea defences (rocks and breakwaters) we can now spin, or lure fish, for bass with more confidence than ever before.

The sea has been encroaching for years on our Essex coastline; However, with the multi-million-pound sea defence which include groynes that stretch 50 or so meters into the sea, these areas are now a haven during the summer months for bass and fish have been reported to me into double figures.

I have a small holdall that I carry especially for lure fishing around these structures, this contains Red Gills, plugs, jelly worms and dexter wedges. Somewhere in one of the pockets are some drilled bullets and spiral leads, a pair of scissors and spare line and that's it!

I find black Red Gills are the best colour to use by far, even in murky water. Dexter wedges come into their own if you need to cast any distance and probably account for 80 percent of the bass I catch from our flat beaches. When all else fails a pike plug can be deadly. I squeeze the hook barbs closed for ease of unhooking. ■



Many Essex beaches are flat and very shallow





# NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Andy webb and mates venture out of their backyards and spend a summer targeting hard-fighting black bream over rough ground





A few years back a group of angling friends, Adam, Rob, Gav, and I decided to venture away from our same old angling surroundings for the last 12 months and put some time into an area of South West rock venues where we would target the hard-hitting black bream. This species is one of my favourites to catch from UK waters, and, if you're lucky enough to catch one, it is also one of the tastiest as well. Cooked in tinfoil and steamed to perfection, served with runner beans and creamy mash; it really does the trick!

## ROUGH GROUND TACTICS

We would be targeting the bream over rough ground with kelp and lots of objects the fish would try and dive down into once hooked. We all therefore decided to go for a reasonably

strong and powerful beachcaster matched with a multiplier loaded with 20lb mainline and an 80lb shockleader. Being able to cast is not needed for this species as they can be caught right under your nose; however, I found that by clearing the rougher ground it enabled us to hook and land more fish as we were able to lift the fish more into midwater, away from the rougher ground underneath. Black bream will try and make their way down to the kelp throughout the fight. If you're targeting bream closer in over rough ground I would recommend going for 25lb line as one clip of 20lb against the rocks could see you lose a fish.

## RIGS

I was shown a great rig which works if you're fishing a good depth over rough ground. It's a basic paternoster rig but made up around 10ft to 12ft long with a rotten bottom system attached to the weight. By popping your bait up with foam this enables you to fish a bait just over the kelp and on top of the rough ground where the fish will be feeding. It can be a pain to cast at times but people who use this rig tend to fish a longer rod and fixed spool method. To be honest, I only used the rig a few times as I found that by being able to hit a lead out at distance to the cleaner ground resulted in more bites and by using a much shorter rig it helped keep the bait fixed to the seabed. One of the key things I've noticed with black bream is the tide. When the tide is pushing the fish tend to feed. ►





Matching the length of your trace line to this is one of the key points to success. We found ourselves changing from 2ft to 6ft rigs depending on the size and stages of the tide.

Always set your drag on your reels. I remember seeing a friend's rod being pulled over and taken clean out of the tripod. Had it not been for his quick reactions, the rod would have been taken into the sea never to be seen again. For such a small species they are very aggressive and extremely powerful.

## CRACKING IT

As with many things in fishing, knowledge is the number one factor in catching any species on a regular basis. Throughout the year, we started to get into more and more fish. The more sessions we put in resulted in us catching fish to the 3lb 7oz mark. We had discovered the trick to fishing the area. This is one thing anyone can do with their angling and most species that you want to target. Trust me, there is nothing more rewarding than catching fish with friends after putting all the time and effort in and cracking the code for the mark and species you are targeting.

Out of all the sessions we had that year I recall one in particular. A friend and I headed out for a session on the rocks. The week before we had got around 18 fish between us, with the biggest going just under the magical 3lb mark. We knew that we had the chance of getting that monster. We had left our homes at around 5am and after a short breakfast stop, we got to our chosen venue. The sea was calm and with little to no wind we started to blast our baits out to the horizon. Hookers' baits mini squid are perfect for black bream and are full of scent. Other good baits are Bluey and fresh mackerel, which can be deadly on the day. Due to the size of the tide we would have around three and half hours fishing before the tide would pick up and become too strong to hold bottom.

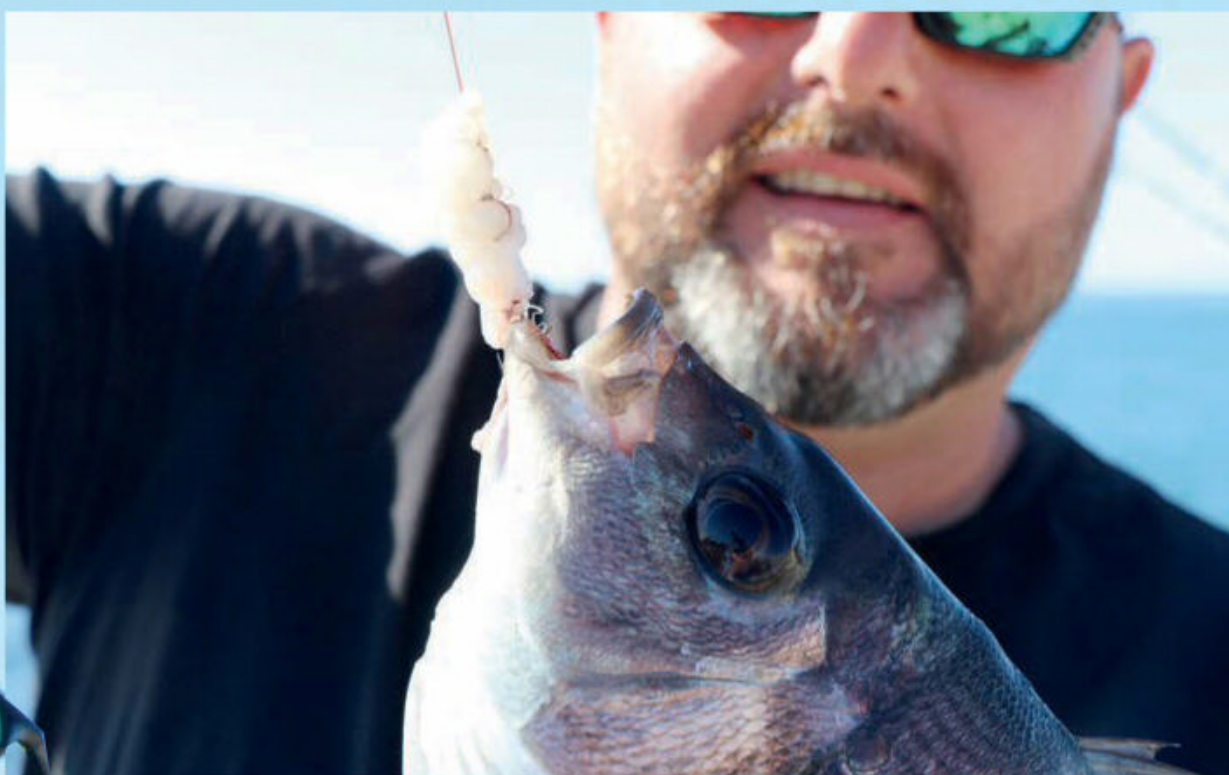
## MAGICAL 3LB

Now, I advise anyone to set their rachets when targeting black bream, as they can hit very hard and with my current personal best being 2lb10oz at the time I knew this from experience. The session started off with a few smaller fish and as the tide picked up the bites started to come. We only fished one rod each as, at times, you only had time to fish one as the fishing could be





that good. I recall my rod slamming over and line being stripped from my reel. As I struck into the fish the rod locked up. I could feel the power of the fish as it took me straight into the rough ground. As I started to apply pressure to the rotten bottom I could feel the lead give way. However, sadly, the fish was still snagged. I decided to let some line out and hope the fish swam free from the snag enabling me to land the fish once it was out in the open water. After five minutes of waiting my reel started to scream once again and I quickly struck into the fish and lifted it up into midwater, away from the rougher ground. I remember the power as it dived for the rocks and kelp. As we got it to the shoreline,



▲ Mini squid are a very effective bait for black bream  
◀ A shore bream of 3lb is a specimen fish and a great catch!

I was greeted with a monster bream over the 3lb mark. After a couple of photos, I returned the fish to fight another day. I will never forget watching this powerful fish speed straight back down to the depths of the ocean. For anyone who has yet to target this species you are really missing out. There are many places to catch black bream around the UK that can be found. Do some research. A little time and effort will always get you the rewards you're after. ■





# FISH LIKE A PRO...



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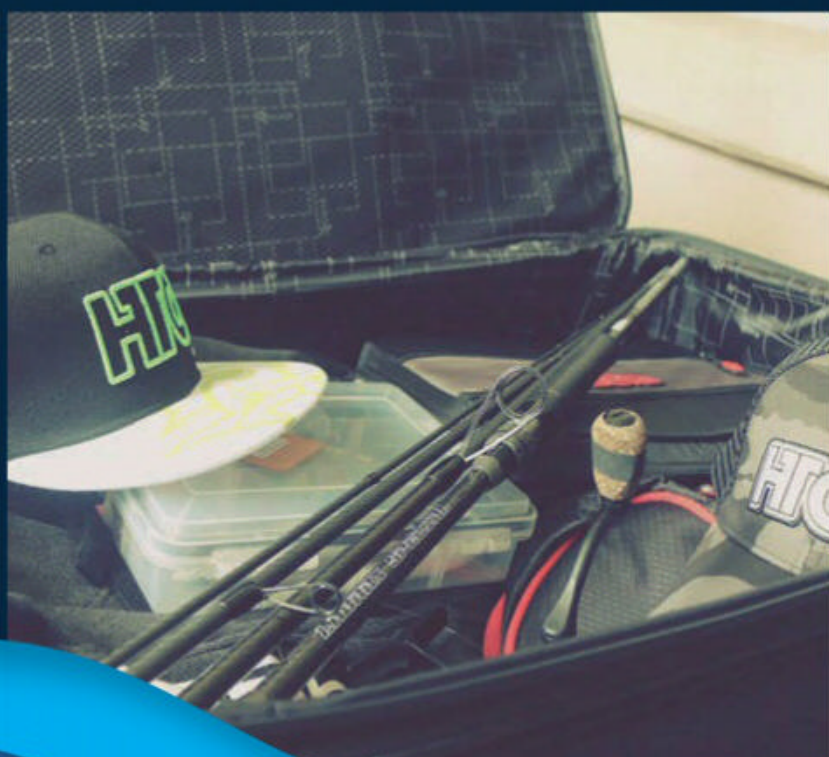


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# BULL HUSS ROAD TRIP

**Four mates from Kent travel to North Wales on an epic mission in search of bull huss**

A few years ago I found a lovely spot in North Wales at Gimblet Rock, Pwllheli, where I spent time on holiday with my family. I was lucky enough to go fishing and even luckier to land a sizeable bull huss (a photo of which sits proudly at home on my landing wall). Several years later, and sporting a few more grey hairs, I convinced some mates to take a road trip and returned to the same spot. On the 29th January I met up with Brian, Russ and Steve. We packed all our gear into Brian's van which was the biggest vehicle to get there altogether. We set off from Kent at nine am. It was a very long journey – just over 6 hours – so I felt a lot of pressure that this was the right spot for success. Fortunately, we had brought plenty of snacks to keep us going, and I'll admit we did make a cheeky stop off at MacDonald's on the way.

I had called ahead to the angling shop 'Llyn Angling' at Pwllheli, and spoke to Tom the owner who advised which bait he thought we would need. Unfortunately, they were short on the ground of the recommended bait so we had to pre-arm ourselves with mackerel, squid, Bluey, black lugworm and sandeels, which of which we transported in cool bags with icepacks which had kept the bait fresh and partly frozen by the time we arrived. On the way we popped in to see Tom to get some local knowledge and to pick up some last-minute hooks. We arrived at Gimblet Rock around 4.30pm. After a quick study of the beach, we worked out the best place to put up our four shelters. We only had an hour before high tide, so we set up all our rods and reels as quickly as we could. The wind was in a north easterly direction which was fairly strong for the first few hours we were there – during which time we managed to get the usual suspects; whiting and dogfish. We were using pulley rigs with 3/0 and 4/0 Cox & Rawle hooks with 5oz and 6oz impact leads.

After we settled in, the hunger pangs kicked in and we set up our trusty gas stoves, cooking up a big feast including

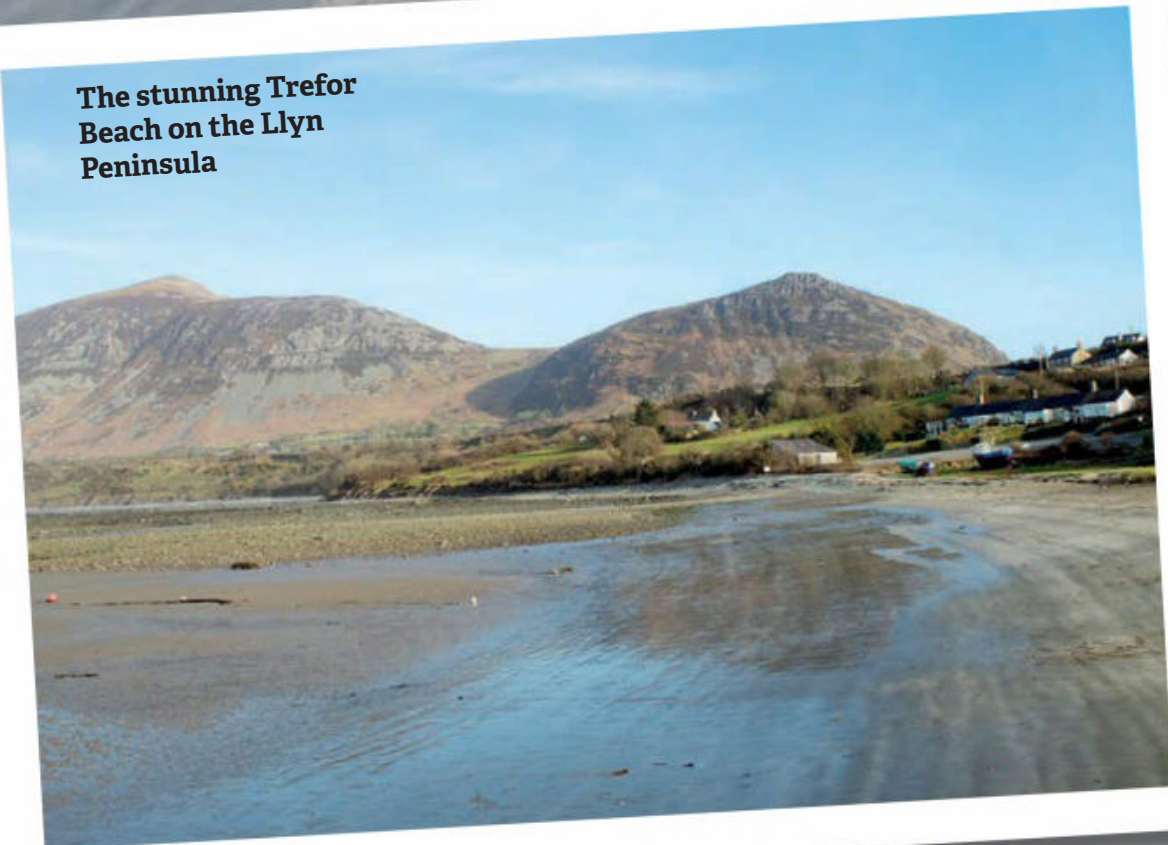




Richard's huss from his first visit to Gimblet Rock



The stunning Trefor Beach on the Llyn Peninsula



burgers, steaks and sausages, all washed down with a few cold beers. This was when I really had the chance to fully appreciate how stunning this coastline is. I have always loved Wales, but Gimblet Rock had the beauty of the calm bay on one side and the harbour behind us. The views out to sea from the bay are amazing with a backdrop of the Snowdonia mountains.

The wind dropped off throughout the evening which made fishing a lot more comfortable, but the whiting and dogfish continued to plague us. Although nice to catch something, we were starting to become a bit deflated as our target species was bull huss. Most of us stayed up throughout the night, although I managed to get a little shut eye. Taking in the view across the sea of the sunrise was stunning and a great start to the following day. As a result of a pretty unsuccessful evening, we felt that we would re-set and search





**Big Pennell-rigged  
fish baits were used  
to tempt the  
hungry huss**

for another venue in the hope of finding our target species. During the previous night we had spoken to a local angler who had mentioned another popular venue, so we travelled a further 20 minutes north and arrived at Trefor Beach. The wind was off our backs and the tide was going out. As it did so it was exposing a lot of rocks and uneven ground. As a result, we decided to use a rotten bottom system using a weak link line which easily breaks away from the rig if it gets stuck.

I had some bacon sizzling away on my stove when I looked up to check my rod and saw that I had a slight pull. Shouting for someone to take over the cooking, I grabbed my rod and struck at the bite. The rod tip started feeling heavier and heavier and as I reeled in, my arms started to feel strained due to the way whatever was on my line was trying to swim. The fish came to the surface

of the water and the lads were shouting, "you got a huss. It's a good one". I couldn't believe my luck. Russ grabbed the huss from the shallow water and gave me my prize fish. After unhooking the fish I had a few pictures taken and was able to study the detail of the magnificent bull huss. When looking at the Huss, it looks like a really big Dogfish, in fact one of its other names is the greater spotted dogfish. I returned the huss to the shallow water and gave it chance to revive itself and watch how smoothly it glided into deeper water.

My mates were hopeful that another huss would appear and tried the best they could in the time we had left, but unfortunately, we had no more bites. The wind and rain picked up and we all decided to call it a day. Although not everyone was successful, it was great that we all managed to see this fantastic species which we don't tend to find in Kent. We all had a great time on our road trip to North Wales. It was a long journey back home, but we all agreed that it was well worth it! ■

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# BLEAK

**WHERE TO FISH ABROAD**

# EXPECTATIONS







## Joe walker wasn't expecting much when he chunked a rod in his luggage on a last-minute break to the windswept family holiday location of Fuerteventura in the Canary Islands. How did he fare?

**I** look to find fish wherever I go on holiday, and the key to success is research. So, when the opportunity arose to grab a cheap week on the bleak volcanic Canary Island of Fuerteventura, I hit the internet. Google Earth (an indispensable tool for the shore angler) revealed a mix of jagged cliffs, black rocks and huge sweeping sandy beaches. I was going to stay in a small coastal resort called Caleta De Fuste, which consisted of a small sheltered sandy bay, protected by a large stone breakwater, and flanked to the north by a rocky outcrop. Crucially, Caleta has a resource that any travelling angler should make immediate use of – a local tackle shop! No matter how diligent your pre-trip research is, there is no substitute for local knowledge. In this instance, 'Gone Fishing' turned out to be an excellent shop, run by English ex-pat, Aram, who was more than willing to share his extensive experience of fishing

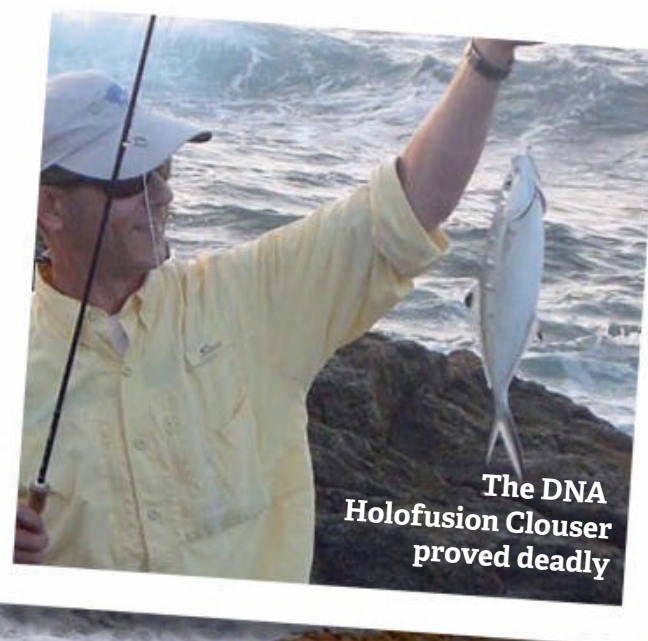
Fuerteventura. On arrival, I took a small map with me and made haste to the shop where Aram went to some lengths to point out specific locations and discuss tactics. And the prospects were better than I'd hoped!

Much of my preconception about the available sport had hinged upon mullet around the harbours and in the sandy bays, including golden greys, thicklips and huge 'flat head' mullet. All of these are viable targets and can provide fantastic sport around the beach and breakwater at Caleta, both on the fly and on freelined or float fished bread.

### RICH WATERS

The key to increasing your chances is getting the mullet feeding by ground-baiting with bread first. In fact, it's worth taking note that this tactic at night regularly produces some serious

fish – indeed Aram's PB flat head mullet stood at a staggering 16lb! Mullet aside, what I hadn't appreciated was the scope here for predator fishing. Aram enthusiastically reported the presence of decent numbers of yellow mouthed barracuda, 'jacks', needlefish and grouper. Pelagic hunters also frequent the islands waters – bonito, dorado and albacore come right inshore at various times in the year, making this a year-round destination for lure fishing. Throw in parrot fish, cow bream, wrasse and lizard fish (to name but a few that come to bait here) and there's plenty of scope! ▶



The DNA Holofusion Clouser proved deadly



My attention was inevitably caught by the possibility of barracuda. I've caught them on both lure and fly in the Caribbean and they are fearsome creatures indeed. Aram suggested fast sinking lures in natural colours, assuring me that 40lb fluorocarbon leader would allow the lures to work and withstand abrasion with minimal risk of bite-offs due to the way the 'cudas hit the lures.

## CONDITIONS

Now, it's probably worth mentioning one of Fuerteventura's principal features at this point. Its windy; very, very windy – almost constantly! This makes for two considerations: one is safety, as the waves can build up on exposed areas of coast, and second is casting restrictions; it's tough trying to work lighter lures with a face full of constant force six, let alone a fly! The good news is that the wind direction is not that changeable, so it's relatively easy to work out locations which allow you to fish the windward sides of rocks and beaches, so pay attention to that and think about your venue and approach before setting out. Oh, and don't underestimate the power of the sun – that strong breeze can easily mask its effects with painful results!

Following Aram's instructions, I started by fly fishing the bay in front of the shop and was rewarded with a couple of hard fighting, beautiful golden greys, albeit of an unremarkable size of about 1.5lb. Although even with the wind behind it was hard going so I decided to make my way to the rocks just north of the town. The natural rock promontory provides relatively

**A palometa taken on the fly -- great sport on balanced tackle**



## No matter how diligent your pre-trip research is, there is no substitute for local knowledge

**Much of the fishing is from the sharp black rocks around the island**



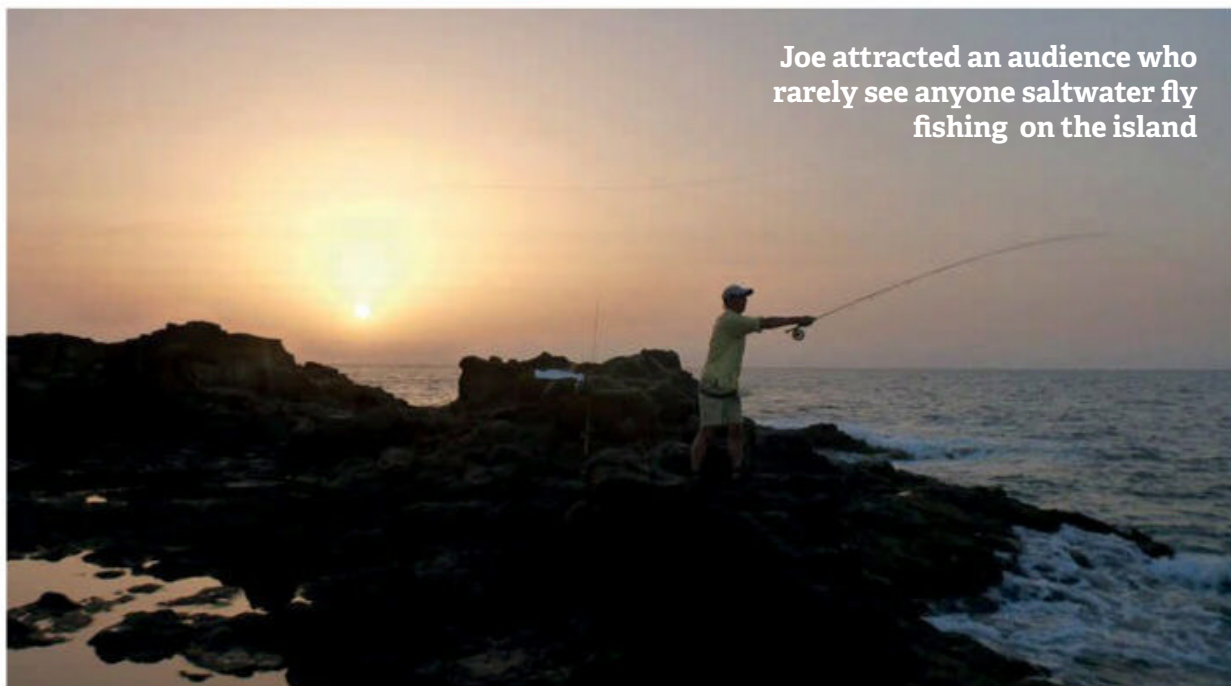
easy access to very deep water as well as enabling fishing on the leeward side, sheltered from the wind. In fact, there's enough space towards the end to be able to cast a fly rod too, so it's an excellent vantage point. Caution is advisable though – whilst falls from height are not an issue, the rocks are sharp and incredibly treacherous underfoot, making it all too easy to turn an ankle and sustain nasty cuts and scrapes – not a venue to approach in darkness or in flip-flops!

## PLUGGING AWAY

Positioning myself towards the end, I started by working the fast-sinking YO-ZURI plugs at around 25-30ft deep. After a while I noticed some activity just sub-surface on the fringes of the fizzing white water shredded by the rocks where the waves surged around the point. I switched to a Megabass Floating Minnow X120 – a lovely floating lure with a slim, sandeel profile – and flicked it into the turbulent water. After only a few retrieves I was treated to the brief image of a fish haring out of the blue depths and hitting the lure like a train! The initial run against stiff clutch tension was frankly alarming, and as the rod strained I had visions of a barracuda bursting through the surface before biting through the trace. The fight was energetic to put it mildly, and when the fish finally did yield and I was able to lift it out with trembling hands, it was revealed as a stunningly beautiful palometa of about 3lb, nowhere near as big as I'd envisioned but unbelievably strong and incredible sport.

## PUTTING ON A SHOW

That marked the start of a significant string of success. palometa are a tough, aggressive, fish, a cousin of the legendary tropical gamefish, the permit. They were present in significant numbers and are the sort of fish that will keep the adrenaline surging all day. The Megabass



Joe attracted an audience who rarely see anyone saltwater fly fishing on the island

# The initial run against stiff clutch tension was frankly alarming, and as the rod strained I had visions of a barracuda bursting through the surface before biting through the trace



Palometa are a relative of the tropical permit and abundant around the island



The busy marina at the resort of Caleta de Fuste on the eastern side of the island

Minnow was irresistible to them and both clutch and arm were tested again and again by these magnificent predators. Things got even better when I switched to the fly rod! Using my favourite bass flies, DNA Holofusion Clousers, resulted in the catch rate and sport notching up yet another level – boy do these fish like a fly! It seems the local fisherman rarely if ever see a fly rod, and I quickly attracted a very interested audience, curious to see how the heck I was consistently catching so many fiery, silver-blue, rocket-fuelled palometa. It was consistently absolutely top-notch sport.

My advice is go light. By all means take the heavier gear as and when the bigger predators are in (a 10lb tuna would certainly be a handful on a six weight fly rod!), but HRF rods would offer utterly sublime action for palometa and needlefish, up to 4lb or so. It has to be said, it was extremely difficult to wipe the grin off my face most days!

So, would I recommend Fuerteventura? Heck, yes! It turned out to be something of a revelation. It's desolate, sand-blasted and bleak terrain disguises seas teeming with opportunity and expectation for the angler prepared to put a bit of diligent research in. It's a great family holiday destination with more than enough to scratch the angling itch at the same time, and with some wonderful tapas to boot, what's not to like? ■

Note: Fishing is restricted in some areas during the day when the resort beaches are in use but the rules are relaxed after the bathers have gone. It's also worth noting that (as in all Spanish waters) you do need a license, but this can be obtained online in advance and the cost is minimal.





# KIMMERIDGE BAY

Chris Clark and friends show what this popular Dorset beach can produce in early autumn when the crowds are thinning out and the anglers can reclaim the shoreline!



**N**estling along the Jurassic coastline the long shallow rocky scars within Kimmeridge Bay are well documented for producing bass and mullet to lures and the fly. But what other options does the bay have to offer? I teamed up with Scott Titt and Will Chellingworth, who are both members of the Swanage Angling club, one September evening to find out.

## WHEN

Early morning or late evening sessions are always recommended along this patch, especially during the summer months when the whole area gets extremely busy. There is plenty of shoreline for lure anglers to roam well away from the majority of folk but it is extremely shallow. For those wanting to fish with baits hard on the bottom there are far fewer opportunities when the beach is busy. Picking the correct tidal conditions and time of year is crucial if you are to put a bend in your rod.

The actual slipway area can produce but it is often busy with boats launching and recovering. Some of the deeper gullies running between the rocky scars in the centre of the bay offer a far better option and are well worth checking out



once the day trippers have headed for home.

On this occasion I arrived around 5pm just as the last of the day trippers were heading for home with Scott and Will joining me around 30 minutes later. From the far right hand corner of the car park it is just a five minute walk down a few steps to reach the beach. Arriving at midtide all the gullies were still clearly visible. I opted to fish directly in front of the access point next to the old wartime pill box where there looked to be a decent gully running between

two rocky scars, although it was very shallow – just a couple of feet some 100 yards from the shoreline.

Hoping for some heavyweights as soon as the light disappeared I had brought plenty of frozen mackerel while Scott was bringing some freshly caught stuff from the boats. With an hour of daylight remaining I had a few score of ragworm. To be honest, any wrasse lurking in the shallow water were expected to be pretty small. As it turned out I was in for a real shock.





## SPECIES

Putting out a two hook trace around a hundred metres with the 1/0 short shank Kamasan B940s hooks baited with large ragworm I was not expecting a great deal of action; maybe the odd nibble from a corkwing, if I was lucky. Much to my surprise, just as I was assembling my second rod, I caught a glimpse of my first rod tip arching over as something on the other end was trying to make a dash for freedom. My initial thoughts were that it was a bass but as soon as I lifted into the fish with the nodding of its head it was unmistakably a big, bold ballan – not what I was expecting in just a couple of feet of water.

Ballan wrasse have a reputation for never waving the white flag, and quite rightly so. Pound for pound they are one of the hardest fighting fish in the sea, never knowing when to admit defeat. This fish was a prime example putting up a hectic struggle in the shallows before it was eventually slid onto the shoreline just as Scott and Will were arriving, ideal for a few quick pictures before the fish was released.

I was more than a little surprised to see a wrasse of that size on my first cast in such shallow water but there was far better to come. Ten minutes later my rod once again sprung into action with a series of strong tugs and soon another reasonable size wrasse was fighting for its freedom in the shallows. Not to be outdone, Will, who was fishing next to me, had a really positive bite on his first cast. The culprit turned out to be a stunning looking ballan wrasse with superb colouration which really gave a good account of itself in the shallows.

While I was surprised to see the ballans they were certainly welcome. The scene was now set for the next 45 minutes with both Will and I landing double shots and a number of quality single fish until the light faded away leaving



With the light fading so did the wrasse fishing

an inky blackness. With the wrasse rapidly becoming a memory it was time to up our game and target the conger, huss and undulate rays that inhabit these shallows at night during the autumn.

## TACTICS

With the light gone I switched one of my rigs to a 3/0 pulley Pennell along with a large mackerel and squid bait. On the other rod, for some strange reason that I can only put down to a senior moment, I continued to use my wrasse trace but baited the B940s short shank hooks with a small slither of mackerel, really hoping for a three bearded rockling. For the next thirty minutes the rod tips remained motionless until Scott managed to catch a small strap conger; there was some life amongst the kelp.

High tide came and went with just the odd pout rattling the rod tips. It looked to be one

of those disappointing evenings, but just as we decided to call it a day I had an enquiry on the wrasse trace – nothing really positive, just a couple of small pull downs. Thinking it was just another bait robbing pout I was really surprised when there was actually some resistance on the other end, with the fish nodding its head during the retrieve.

A couple minutes later a half decent strap conger was laying at my feet; not the monster we were hoping for, but it was certainly a good way to finish the session. ■

The rocky scars that stretch out into Kimmeridge Bay

## NEED TO KNOW

### GETTING THERE

Getting there:  
Heading on the A351 from Wareham you take a right on the outskirts of Corfe Castle. Following this minor road you take a left a couple of miles after passing through the hamlet of Church Knowle. It is signposted to Kimmeridge.



Kimmeridge Bay is approached via a toll road with card payments only. Costs can vary slightly depending on the time of year but are normally round £6. Night access is restricted.

### LOCAL TACKLE SHOPS

■ Purbeck Angling, 28 South Street, Wareham. BH20 4LU. Tel: 01929 550770.

■ Swanage Angling Centre, 6 High Street, Swanage. BH19 2NT. Tel: 01929 424989.





# EAST LANE & SH

Top match angler, Ian Bowell, guides you along this stretch of the Suffolk coast where hounds, bass and thornbacks provide great sport

**T**ucked away between the Suffolk Hamlets of Shingle Street and Bawdsey is a stretch of beach which is named after one of the access roads, East Lane, and which is steeped in history going back to mysterious events during the Second World War.

## SPECIES

Over the years it was known for a good run of cod in winter and spring, then bass, with some good fish too. How times have changed with the demise of the southern North Sea cod stock. Thornback ray and more recently smoothhound have provided company for the bass which patrol the beach in search of food.



Thornbacks have helped replace the cod



Bluey, herring and mackerel are top baits





# SHINGLE STREET



It's a stretch of coastline which really does allow all types of angling, from rock fishing to the south, along the sea defences of East Lane, right through to clean beach and estuary fishing at Shingle Street.

## EAST LANE

East Lane you have a rock mark straight in front of the car park which produces bass and hounds, along with dogfish which at times can be prolific. It's a spot not for the faint-hearted as you need to fish from the rock ledges, casting onto clay, boulder-strewn gullies which hold the crab the fish are searching for. Landing a decent fish can prove problematic as you need to lift the fish clear of the rocks. Many a good fish has been lost in the last seconds, or entangled itself in the lobster and crab pots which at times can make casting quite challenging but worth it. ►





Squid or crab (fresh or frozen) baits are best, fished on a pulley Pennell. Distance isn't needed as the fish run close to the rocks. Fishing over high is best; as the water drops away retrieving your gear will only get harder.

## SHINGLE STREET

To the left of the rock mark is the shingle beach stretching towards Shingle Street which sits at the mouth of the river Alde, with the iconic Orford Island in the distance. Access to the beach is along a footpath, suitable for trollies. It's a fair walk, 800m to the first access point to the beach. The mid-point of the beach is marked by a Martello Tower. Between the rocks and the tower produce bass and hounds in summer, along with rays.

## BAIT & TACTICS

Ebb or flood is a debatable question. I prefer the flood, with high tide and in darkness for the hounds, with fresh crab as bait for a big hound or bass. If it's a ray you're after then I'd try the Shingle Street end of the beach. Again, you can fish straight in front of the houses, however I prefer to walk up into the bay. There's a footpath along the sea wall; however, it has

limited access to the beach and is quite a walk; worth it though, I think! If a shorter walk is for you then walk along the old concrete road which leads to the beach and pick your spot. Rays are landed all year round, with the bigger females showing in the spring as they travel into the rivers to lay their egg sacks. Bait is easy; squid, Bluey and herring, particularly if it's laden with roe. Rays are caught at all times of the day and night, but the ebb is definitely better, fishing it right down to the last trickle of run. A standard one up, one down will suffice, clipped if you feel the need to gain a bit more distance. During winter and night sessions whiting will often take you ray bait, which can be frustrating. Perseverance will pay, along with multi-hook rigs to maximise your chances. ■

**Big crab baits  
will tempt the  
smoothhounds**



## NEED TO KNOW

### GETTING THERE

**Shingle Street:** From Woodbridge follow the signs to Hollesley, past the Woodbridge air base. At the cross-roads in Hollesley, go straight over and follow the winding road all the way across the marsh to Shingle Street, park in the public spaces, please do not block or park in the private drives.

**East Lane:** again, from Woodbridge head for Sutton, Shottisham and Bawdsey, taking the left turn into East Lane just as you enter the village. There's a public car park at the bottom of the lane.

### LOCAL TACKLE SHOPS

■ Saxmundham Angling Centre, Market Place, Saxmundham, IP17 1AH

Tel: 01728-603443

■ Breakaway Tackle, Bramford Road Ipswich

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# GOSWICK BAY

This north Northumberland bay encompasses three beaches with plenty of options and marks to explore

**G**oswick Bay stretches south from Berwick on Tweed to Holy Island, a sweep of golden sand encompassing the beaches of Cocklawburn, Cheswick and Goswick. It was at Cocklawburn circa 1967 where, with my girlfriend, later wife, we were casting very modest distances with trout spinning rods. What the bait or rig was is long forgotten but we both caught dinner plate sized flatfish. Whether they were dabs or flounders, turbot or brill, we did not have a clue. They were 'flatties' to us and eaten that night.

Offshore the bay comprises large areas of reefs and rocks, unlike the coastline scenery, which is heavily fished afloat yet the shoreline has seldom attracted much angling interest.

## COCKLAWBURN

Of the three beaches Cocklawburn is the flattest with the most features in near, middle, and far skeers. These skeers, or rocky outcrops, suggest a summer food larder of shore crabs and small fish resident in the rock pools. Bass immediately spring to mind and rumours circulate of their capture from these beaches but finding the successful captors has failed to bear fruit, as have, unfortunately, my own bass fishing efforts here.

With an unclassified road running alongside, Cocklawburn is the easiest accessible of the three beaches. At places the beach is only a few

Much of the bay is fishing over clean sand and into lagoons



yards from the road which terminates at the ruined lime kiln to the south. The most useful map for the area is 340 OS Explorer Holy Island and Bamburgh.

## CHISWICK SANDS

Chiswick Black Rocks mark the start of the long beach, Chiswick Sands, which stretch south towards Holy Island. These isolated rocky outcrops can be prominent at times while at others they are partially sanded up and produce dabs and flounder.

Sea trout are a possibility. One did fall for my mackerel strip at the middle skeers. The area we are talking about from Cocklawburn south was

once intensively exploited for migratory fish. Salmon and sea trout intent on entering their home river at Berwick on Tweed circle around into Goswick Bay before entering fresh water at the Tweed Estuary.

South of the beach access path the foreshore may lack solid features but becomes interesting, and ever changing. Sometimes there may be two or even three sandbars at low water springs forming small lagoons worth reconnoitring with the tide ebbed, then the little inlet streams fished as the flood tide pushes in. One feature of these beaches is how clean the surf is even with fairly heavy seas, these little lagoons protected by sandbanks can offer fishable havens with the force of the heavy seas broken offshore.





**This 6lb bass was caught commercially from Goswick Bay**



Turbot can be caught here in the summer up to dinner plates size and just under the legal limit. Larger specimens may be lurking offshore looking for easy pickings as the sea fills. Lagoons and sandbanks feature for over a mile south to where the Black Low enters the sea just north of some dune islands. These are ever-changing shifting sands but sometimes there are some good sea pools where this stream enters the sea. At others the little estuary is gone and the waters seep away through the sand. Perhaps the fresh water draws them but flounder seem to predominate here while further north it can be an equal mix of dabs and flounders.

The entire stretch of these three beaches is backed by extensive sand dunes, I can verify it to be an uncomfortable place to fish when the wind blows from the land. Everything is sand blasted, tackle bags filled with sand, lunch can have an extra crunchy filling to accompany gritty liquids.

Terminal tackle for me is simply a two-hook rig with 4oz breakaway lead, hooks are 4/0 to try to prevent fish gorging the hook, 12ft rod and fixed spool reel complete the outfit. Bait is usually frozen mackerel strip from my own freezer, or lug from beside the Holy Island causeway. Check the notice board for regulations before digging. This summer the intention is to experiment in a more roving using spinning rod and soft lures starting at Cheswick fishing southwards to the little North Low stream in search of that elusive bass. Best time to fish here? Personally, I would say from May to September, although flatties can hang on right into the Christmas period. ■

## NEED TO KNOW

### GETTING THERE

Cocklawburn is reached from the A1 by following Scremerston then Cocklawburn Beach road signs. Access to Chiswick beach is from the A1 by minor roads signposted Goswick and Cheswick. Head for the latter passing East House before continuing past a row of farm cottages then over a rail bridge to find a parking area beyond. The beach is about five minutes from here and popular with dog walkers. The only local tackle shop today in the locality is Go Outdoors at Scremerston.



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# WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Heading to Weston for a summer holiday? Take a rod and follow James Madsen's advice on how to catch from this popular bucket and spade venue



**W**eston-Super-Mare is a seaside town situated in north Somerset. It is a very popular holiday destination in the warmer months of the year. The town's beach is surrounded by many attractions which keep the holiday makers busy when they visit. The beach is set in the heart of Weston Bay and is part of the Bristol Channel. As you scan the horizon from the beach you will see a number of very distinct landmarks. When facing left on the beach you will look out on Brean Down, a popular destination for walkers and an area which boasts numerous fishing locations as well. The Grand Pier, which can't be missed when looking across to the right-hand side of the beach, has to be one of the most famous landmarks in the whole of Weston-Super-Mare. Sadly, this is partly because the pier caught fire and burnt down in 2008. Thankfully, the pier has since been restored. Beyond the Grand Pier, when looking further right along the horizon, you can also see the ruins of the old pier at Birnbeck. The old pier was once a popular location for anglers but is now closed to the public.

## PARKING & ACCESS

Fishing from the town beach at Weston-Super-Mare could not be easier. Yes, when it comes to fishing, this venue really can offer something for everyone. There is plenty of parking along the seafront, along with easy access from your car to the beach. That includes suitable parking and easy access for anyone who may have a disability. You could literally fish with your whole family at Weston town beach: mum and dad, kids and grandparents.

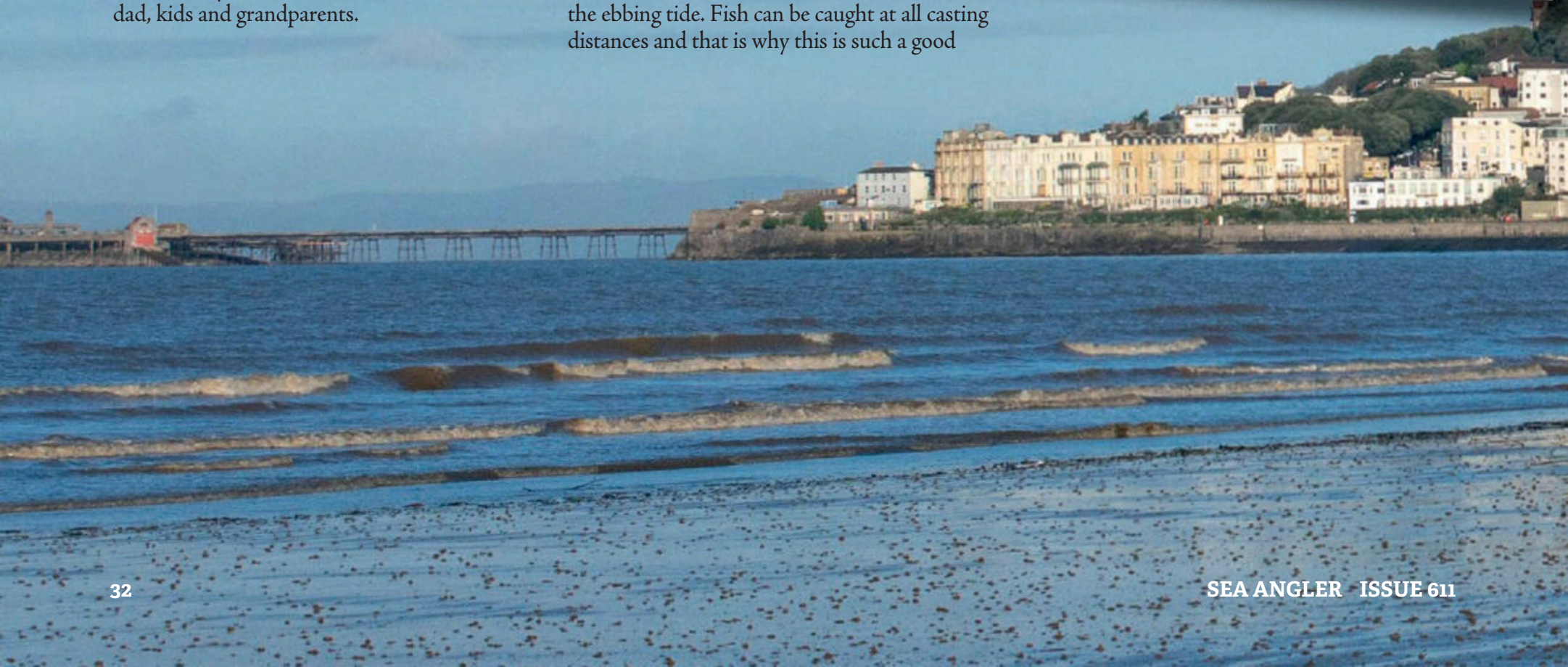
Wait until dark when the crowds go home and the bass come out



## TARGET SPECIES

As this is a shallow sandy beach it tends to fish better in the warmer months of the year. Fish species include thornback ray, conger eels, silver eels, flounder, dover sole, whiting and bass. You will find that as the sands begin to heat up on this beach, all those different fish species will move into the shallows and feed. The beach at Weston-Super-Mare is a high-water venue only. This is because of some pretty deep mud that can build up beyond the harder sand. Mud build-up can often start just after the main runoff of the beach, so you should be careful. As a rule of thumb, most anglers tend to fish two hours of the flooding tide up to high water and then one and a half hours back down on the ebbing tide. Fish can be caught at all casting distances and that is why this is such a good

Flatties are caught at close range





venue for anglers of mixed abilities. It's usually flatfish, whiting, eels and bass which get caught at a close casting range on this beach. The thornback rays generally get caught by those anglers who can cast a bit further out in the tide.

## BAIT AND TACKLE

King ragworm baits are a personal favourite of mine when fishing this venue in the summer and autumn. Literally all the fish species found on this beach will happily take a big ragworm bait. Lugworm can actually be dug from the beach and can work really well for the flatties. Bass also like a big lugworm bait on this venue. Mackerel and squid baits can work well when you are targeting the bigger fish here. Bigger fish baits can obviously be cast and left out to soak longer in the tide. However, you will have to be patient; this is often a bit of a waiting game. You have loads of different options when it comes to your fishing tackle and setups. A lighter beach setup may be preferred if you are fishing at close range from the sand. Stiffer, more conventional, beachcasters are favoured when casting further out with bigger baits. Lead sinkers with grip wires are recommended for those who are casting out bigger baits in the tide.

## VENUE GUIDELINES

Be aware that you will be sharing this venue with other beach users. As anglers we should always consider other people's safety when fishing from a busy beach full of holidaymakers. Unfortunately, sometimes you will find the beach at Weston-Super-Mare too busy to actually fish, especially in daylight hours and

**Out of holiday season  
you may have the  
beach to yourself!**



**Weston is a  
high-water  
venue**



**Worm baits will definitely find the flatties**

particularly during the summer holidays when the kids are off school. Don't worry, all is not lost because the locals who visit this beach during the summer months actually prefer fishing the venue in the hours of darkness. If the tide times allow, you can often enjoy some brilliant fishing in darkness when the beach is quiet. It can also be worth earmarking some early morning tides for fishing throughout the summer as well. ■

## NEED TO KNOW

### LOCAL TACKLE SHOPS

■ **Northbound M5:**  
Thyers Fishing  
Tackle & Bait,  
1A Church St,  
Highbridge TA9 3AE  
Tel: 01278 786934.

■ **Southbound**  
M5: Reel Fun  
Fishing, Portishead Quays Marina,  
Newfoundland Way, Bristol BS20 7DF  
Tel: 01275 848652.







# ATLANTIC CORNWALL

MIKE MILLMAN plots a course to some of the best marks to try between Towan Head and to the North of the Padstow Estuary

**C**ornwall's Atlantic coast is of World Heritage status. Open to 3,000 miles of ocean it features soaring headlands, thrusting into deep blue water, endless beaches of golden sand, big estuaries bordered by accessible rock strands, coves, and protecting breakwaters.

Add a huge range of UK species enhanced by semi tropical wanderers from places such as Biscay, Madeira and the Azores and it is everything the dedicated shore angler wants.

## TOWAN HEAD

Towan Head is on Newquay's doorstep and rugged with deep water attracting a wide range of species including wrasse, bass and small eyed ray. Mullet are plentiful around the whole of the headland but must be coaxed with ground bait. Several species of tropical fish have also been recorded. Be aware – the head is subject to massive swells that arrive quite unexpectedly as I know to my own cost. Vigilance is of vital importance and if you hear or see one coming do not delay getting to safer ground to the point of leaving your tackle behind if the water is really close. The incident I was involved in was whilst fishing when the conditions

Peeler is the killer bait for bass here

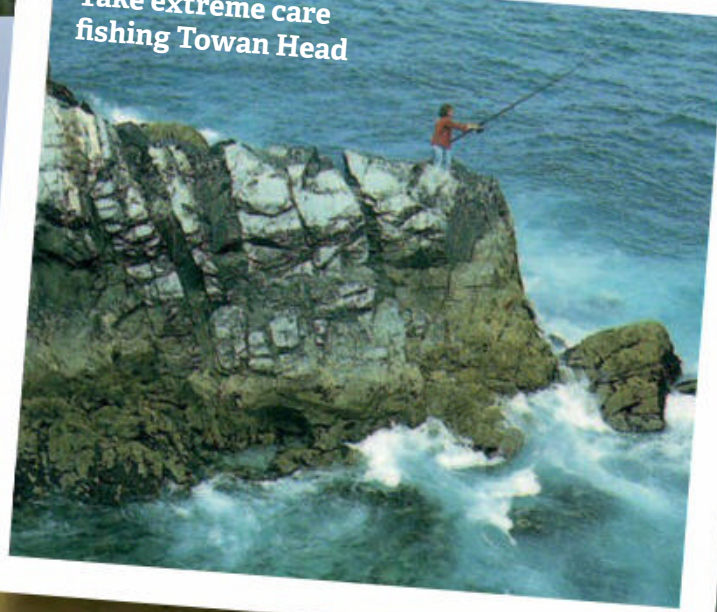


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were calm and there was no obvious danger. Suddenly a wall of water appeared around the side of the Head and within seconds we were engulfed in four feet of water. We threw ourselves onto the rock platform and held on for grim death. It took a fortnight for my lacerated hands to heal. Getting on for a dozen

Take extreme care fishing Towan Head





anglers have lost their lives to this ever-present danger. Towan also offers top class ballan wrasse, conger (during the night hours) and mullet fishing, which can be excellent after a solid session of ground baiting. Mackerel, chub mackerel (Spanish), dab and pollack are caught with lures or float rigs. If it is pollack you are really after, live sandeel and live prawn are the leading baits bar none. There is very good whiting fishing during the winter months as well.

Moving down channel, the first beach of note for bassing is Crantock. To go upstream they pass through a narrow neck in the Gannel. Holywell Bay Beach gives bass and the long stretch of Perran Sands end at the holiday resort all the way up to Cligga Head. The flood tide to over high water always gives the best results. When the tide is well up it is a beach for small eyed ray and the occasional spotted and cuckoo ray show up as well.

## PARK HEAD

Park Head is a great mark for wrasse but be prepared for a very long walk and descent down the cliff. However, it is worthwhile. The wrasse are plentiful and very eager feeders on crab, razorfish, worm and cocktails. Strangely though, lugworm gets a poor response. They will take baits throughout the day even when it is sunny, but obviously dull conditions are best. You will be casting into deep water at all states of the tide on to a mix of rock gullies and ledges interspaced with sand. It is useful to know where the sand patches are by arriving at low tide so you can record exactly where to drop the bait, which really does minimise end tackle loss. A sliding float is easier on tackle but isn't a tactic to take a big specimen.

## TREVOSE HEAD

Trevose is a dominant feature of this part of the north coast with its twin nearby called Dinas Head. Trevose has an important lighthouse that guards the very dangerous coast. British records for ballan wrasse and small eyed ray have been set from the Trevose ledges and a number of hefty tope have fallen to baits offered from Dinas that also gives quality wrasse and, at times, big pollack. For the pollack you can't do better than live prawn on a float rig. The headlands are reached by a toll road and there are plenty of parking spaces when you reach the marks. The Padstow Estuary has a well-earned reputation for bass which are taken from Stepper Point on its southern edge. Opposite at Pentire Point and the famous Rumps Point there is good bottom fishing with sandeel, prawn, and cocktail baits. These are very good small eyed ray marks along with the odd spotted and occasional cuckoo ray. The latter is one of the rarer types and Cornish waters have supplied most of those so far recorded. In late October flounder begin making their way through the Padstow Estuary into the Camel.

The fishing for bass is brilliant at Treyarnon, Constantine, Porthcothan, Mother Ivey's and Harlyn Bay. There are many flat ledges that make good stations to spin or float fish in deep water for all the surface species. When spinning it is vital to keep the lure moving until it is virtually at your feet. Big fish, mostly pollack, will turn away at the very last second when the lure is almost lifted out of their mouths. Other great bass beaches include Trevone, Polzeath and Daymer.



**Trevose Head and lighthouse**

## CARNWEATHER POINT

This mark is in Portquin Bay and its rugged coastline is well worth fishing. It is, however, a bit of a hike from the nearest available car park. Some time ago bluefin tuna were seen breaching quite close to the coast here and it is quite likely it will happen again considering the numbers now visiting Cornish waters. It could be a prime area for shore encounters. Trebarwith Strand near Tintagel is worthy of inclusion for bass and should be fished in darkness. Just over a mile away is Boscastle tucked away behind a high cliff. Entrance to the tiny harbour is no more than a gash in the rock. It has a small breakwater and is a useful spot for mackerel, pollack or garfish by float or spin fishing. Bass also show mostly at the top of the tide and during the first two hours of the ebb. ■







# SEATON BEACH

All you need to know to fish this mark located along Dorset and East Devon's famous Jurassic coast

**S**eaton is a seaside town situated in East Devon between the villages of Beer and Axmouth. This is a shingle beach which goes off to clean sand, with some rougher areas of ground around its periphery. It's a beautiful beach surrounded by some great looking scenery. A bird's-eye view of this venue would show you chalky cliffs on the left-hand side and good views of some rugged looking coastline on the right-hand side of the beach. This venue is part of Lyme Bay which is an area of the English Channel situated between Start Point to the west and Portland Bill to the east of Seaton. There are all sorts of possibilities when it comes to the fishing at this venue and it offers a good variety of different species of fish which can be caught here throughout the year.

## SEASONAL SPECIES

A winter sea at Seaton can bring large numbers of whiting inshore, including some good eating fish too. Pouting can be caught all year round but you generally see the bigger fish caught in the winter months. It's much the same with the bull huss; you often see the bigger fish get landed in the colder, more unsettled months of the year and generally around the edges of the beach where you will find the rougher ground. You can catch some really good sized small eyed ray from the beach in early spring, usually in the dark, unless we've had some

A lovely garfish from Seaton beach



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unsettled weather and the sea is coloured. Once winter has passed, and the calmer weather has arrived, Seaton can be a really good venue for targeting plaice. You want a good water clarity when targeting plaice here. We tend to see the best of the plaice fishing in March and that's generally because the commercial fishing gets going again in April. Unfortunately, this area of Lyme Bay can be put under some serious pressure by commercial fishing, that's both fixed nets and trawlers. Nevertheless, plaice

fishing on Seaton beach in early spring can be really good. We often see an early run and the best of the smoothhound fishing in March and April, although you do see odd ones get caught right the way throughout the year. As the temperatures begin to rise you may start seeing signs that the thick lipped mullet have arrived. The mouth of the River Axe can be found on the right-hand side of the beach and this is a great holding spot for mullet and bass. Some big bass can be caught during any period

Rough weather produces the best bass



Flounder are caught all year round





of rough weather, at any time of the year. Mackerel, scad and gurnards are a popular target species in the warmer months, along with the thick lipped mullet and garfish, which generally show up in good numbers towards the end of summer. Autumn is by far and away the best time of year to fish here. You can catch pretty much all of the aforementioned species in september and october and some good size fish too. Conger eels can get caught all year round, with occasional better fish showing up after a period of unsettled weather. Pollack, again, can be caught all year round but not in big numbers. The same can be said about Dover sole and flounder. You will also catch dogfish in most months of the year, although they do tend to disappear in July and August. Wrasse get caught in the rougher ground from spring onwards until early winter.

## TACKLE AND BAIT

During the winter a more conventional beach casting approach is recommended. Frozen mackerel is a firm favourite for catching the whiting, pouting and dogfish. In the spring, Small eyed rays will get caught on mackerel and squid, but do they seem to particularly like a sandeel bait. Lugworm and ragworm baits work best for catching the plaice. Dover sole love a big ragworm bait and the flounders generally get caught on all worm baits. A wide selection of different fish baits will catch you bull huss and conger eels in the rougher ground on either end of the beach. Peeler crab can sometimes work well too. Smoothhounds obviously like crab baits but you will also see them get caught on straight squid. On its day, king ragworm baits can produce bull huss, conger eels and smoothhounds. Wrasse also like a king ragworm bait and, of course, peeler and hardback crab. I would



**Seaton beach shoreline looking east towards the mouth of the River Axe**

recommend getting your lighter rod and reel setups out when targeting the mullet. Generally, a more continental style approach to your fishing is recommended in the summer months, especially when targeting mullet, mackerel, scad and garfish. You will catch the gurnards in the summer months and they tend to favour mackerel and ragworm baits. I would also recommend having a go at targeting mullet, mackerel and garfish with a float. It's a very exciting way of fishing, especially float fishing with really light tackle. Bread and mackerel flesh works well when targeting mullet on the float. Small strips of fish will catch you the mackerel, scad and garfish. I've caught bass on most baits at Seaton. The smaller ones seem to prefer ragworm and the larger bass like a fish bait. A whole joey mackerel fished in the gutter is a firm favourite for a big bass at Seaton, especially in rough weather. You could also try lure fishing at dusk and dawn on this venue for bass and this can also be good times to target mullet on the float. ■

## NEED TO KNOW

### GETTING THERE

Parking and access to this venue couldn't be easier; just park, walk a short distance and fish. You need to be aware of holiday makers, especially in the warmer months of the



year. In the height of summer fishing can become almost impossible on this beach because of swimmers and varied water sports. In the busier months of the year we recommend early mornings, late evenings, and night fishing at Seaton.

### LOCAL TACKLE SHOPS

■ Seaton Angling & Kayak Centre,  
The Harbour, Axmouth, Seaton  
EX12 4AA  
Tel: 01297 625511







# TENBY



The 'Little Fortress of the Fish' offers great inshore family boat fishing opportunities as well as specimen tope, ray and huss fishing in Carmarthen Bay's deeper water marks



A tope from the  
DZ3 buoy in  
Carmarthen Bay

**T**enby is widely regarded as being the jewel in the crown of Welsh tourism. Aside for being an extremely pretty little harbour town where you'll find lots of great pubs, restaurants, accommodation options and numerous popular tourist attractions. Just offshore, boat anglers can experience superb boat angling. None of which should come as any great surprise when you learn Tenby's Welsh name is, 'Dinbych-y-Pysgod,' or 'Little Fortress of the Fish'!

Just over two miles due south of Tenby Harbour, on the opposite side of Caldey Sound, sits the historic, monastic, Caldey Island; a tranquil sanctuary of meditation and home of a brotherhood of Cistercian monks. Caldey is a beautiful, unspoilt, gem of an island; its coastline studded with numerous secluded

The idyllic  
Tenby Harbour





coves and beaches. From an angling perspective such diverse topography within close proximity to Tenby has created a multitude of angling options, along with providing the shelter to be able to fish both comfortably and safely given most weather conditions.

## SPECIES

Many days throughout the summer and autumn boats stop to feather mackerel for bait almost immediately upon leaving the Harbour, just a short run past St Catherine's Island. As a result, Tenby has a long tradition of being the starting point for the classic summer holiday 'mackerel trip.' In addition to being a lot of fun for all of the family these one to three-hour trips are perfect 'taster sessions' for introducing children to boat fishing. Almost guaranteed sightings of seals are an added bonus!

A wide variety of different species are caught throughout Caldey Sound including bass, black bream, smoothhounds, dogfish, huss, gurnards, rays, wrasse, various species of flatfish, and tope. In recent years smoothhounds have become increasingly abundant and are often caught here in huge numbers.

**Mackerel sessions from Tenby are great for getting the kids into fishing**



## TACTICS

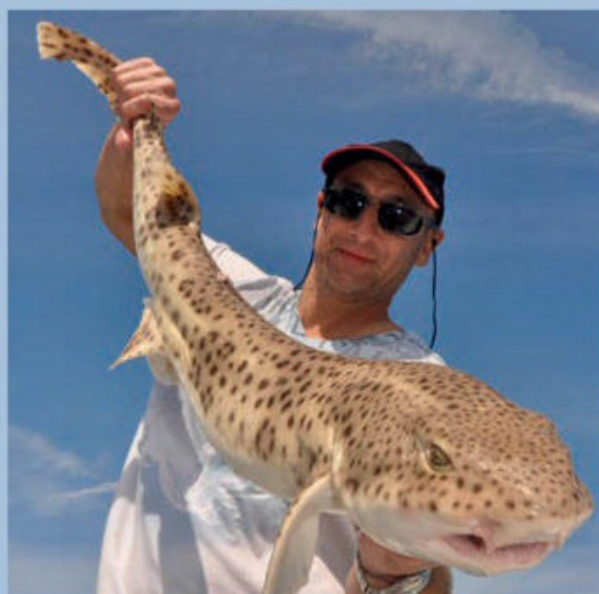
Uptiding with grip leads pinned hard to the bottom and a bow of line hanging taught in the tide is a productive way to catch these hard fighting fish, but fishing downtide and allowing a bait to slowly trundle across the bottom can be very effective for smoothhounds, and other species. Afloat, smoothhounds can be caught on ragworm, squid, and on occasion pretty much any other bait. However, none of these are anywhere near as effective a bait as either peeler or hermit crab.

## THE BOG HOLE

'The Bog Hole' is a noted hotspot for bass. I have been unable to establish just why it's called The Bog Hole, but that's what it's called locally, and that's what it's named on the charts! Located in Caldey Sound, slightly closer to the island than the mainland, the Bog Hole is conveniently marked with both port and a starboard channel markers adjacent to it. Even if these were taken away you'd be hard pushed to miss the boiling patch of turbulent water that swirls up to the surface as the fast-running tide ►







**Deeper water holds good huss like this one**

pushes over this deep depression in the seabed. Fishing here on the drift with either live sandeel, ragworm or mackerel is the most effective technique for bass. When fished at anchor around slack water The Bog Hole is a noted hotspot for bream and other species.

## CARMARTHEN BAY

Further offshore in Carmarthen Bay and the deeper water to the south of Caldey, are even more angling options, notably for tope, ray and huss. The DZ3 buoy that marks the edge of the Pembrey military firing range marks a patch of ground that has long been noted for producing large runs of tope. Unsurprisingly, freshly caught mackerel is the killer bait for these. Rigs incorporating heavy mono hook lengths of between 150-200lb and size 6/0 barbles hooks, baited with either a mackerel head and guts or flapper baits take some beating for tope and huss. Long thin fillets work best for ray, dogfish and an occasional small turbot.

Several charter boats are based at Tenby. In addition to running frequent short duration mackerel trips for individuals, two of these, Triton II and Patriot, can be chartered for a full day fishing. Early booking is essential, especially



**Smiles all round: A nice Caldey Sound dab**

for weekends and school holiday periods. The somewhat unique topography off this stretch of the Pembrokeshire coastline means that regardless of from which direction any wind is blowing, there will almost always be somewhere boats can fish in both comfort and safety. So, if you are thinking of a seaside holiday somewhere in the UK that offers decent fishing from both boat and shore, then Tenby would be an excellent choice.

It is possible to launch private boats at Tenby, however it tends to be problematic. Tenby's narrow streets are invariably heavily congested with pedestrians, and for eight weeks through high summer much of the town is pedestrianized during which time vehicular access to the harbour is only possible before 09:00 and after 17:30. You need to ensure there is sufficient water to launch and retrieve outside of these hours, plus parking for a boat and trailer is not easy. Best advice for those intending to launch their own boat at Tenby would be to contact the Harbour Master, Chris Salisbury, or his deputy, Jack Oliver, well in advance of any planned trip. Tel: 01834 824717 Mobile: 07812559483/482 or Email [chris.salisbury@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.salisbury@pembrokeshire.gov.uk) ■

## NEED TO KNOW

**GETTING HERE**  
The port can be contacted on VHF Channel 16, from where you will be directed to a working channel, usually either channel 8 or 80.



To book a trip aboard Triton II Tel: 07837 405816, or visit: [www.tenbyseafishing.co.uk](http://www.tenbyseafishing.co.uk)

To book a trip aboard Patriot Tel: 07976612388, or visit: [mackerelfishingtenby.co.uk](http://mackerelfishingtenby.co.uk)

Mackerel trips aboard Seren-y-Mor, Bluefin and Summertime can be booked locally from the kiosks at the harbour.

Visit [www.fishing.visitwales.com](http://www.fishing.visitwales.com) for information on fishing, accommodation and the latest sea angling news from the Principality.

To get to Tenby Harbour follow the A40 west out of Carmarthen turning off onto the A477 at the roundabout near St Clears, and then left onto the A478 near Kilgetty, and head towards Tenby. The beach & harbour are well signposted.

### LOCAL TACKLE SHOPS

- Anglers Corner Milford Haven  
Tel: 01646 698899
- Anglers Corner Llanelli  
Tel: 01554 773981.





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## G.loomis

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IMX Pro Mag Bass 7ft 4-10g	1 Piece	£289.99

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*It's a savage world*

This is the first time I have been 100% involved with bass lure rods from initial ideas through to the finished products I am now fishing with.  
Henry Gilbey

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Khaki and Cloudy White with 40g lead head

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We also stock  
Candy Shrimp  
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Accessories

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*It's a savage world*

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Khaki and Cloudy White with 40g lead head

### BLACK MINNOW

Khaki, Blue and Gold / Blue 140 and 120 with lead heads of 40g and 25g

We also stock  
Candy Shrimp  
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Crazy Sand Eel  
Mud Digger  
Accessories

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## SAVAGE GEAR

*It's a savage world*

Mads and Henry have done an incredible job, not just creating the rods but crafting an entire range of product positioned specifically for the UK and Ireland's army of bass anglers.  
Richard Taylor, boss of Svendsen

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See Angler Review, June 2019

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<b>STELLA SW-C</b> 14 MODELS from £679.99		

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### BOAT REELS

Fishing reels for sea fishing

<b>Sealine Sloss</b> Boat reel from £89.99	<b>18 Saltist</b> Boat reel from £219.99	<b>Saltist</b> Level wind reel from £199.99	<b>20 Saltiga LD</b> Single & 2 speed boat reels from £369	<b>16 Saltiga 40H &amp; 50H</b> Saltwater multiplier reels RRP £520 NOW £299
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anyfish anywhere **Blue Label Range**

These rods offer exceptional performance both in terms of casting and fishing at a price point that makes them very accessible.

**four&bait rod mk2**

Surfcasting Rods	RRP	PRICE
13ft 3-5oz Fixed Spool	£205	£179.99
13ft 3-5oz Multiplier	£205	£179.99
14ft 3-5oz Fixed Spool	£215	£189.99
14ft 3-5oz Multiplier	£215	£189.99

**Surfcasting Rods**

RRP	PRICE
13ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£235 £199.99
13ft 5-7oz Multiplier	£235 £199.99
14ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£245 £199.99
14ft 5-7oz Multiplier	£245 £199.99
15ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£255 £209.99
15ft 5-7oz Multiplier	£255 £209.99

anyfish anywhere **PRO RED LABEL SERIES**

The worlds first truly Professional standard beach fishing rods

**NEW FOR 2022**

**Grand Prix Pro Mk2**  
This new slimmed down version is lighter by about 3oz's and has a 24mm butt + Reducer.  
Multiplier 13ft 10in - Casts 4-7oz (150-200g) RRP NOW £550 **£469.99**

**Estuary Rods MK2**  
11ft - Casts 30-100g RRP NOW £220 **£189.99**  
12ft - Casts 30-100g RRP NOW £225 **£199.99**

**Tournament GBFS Pro MK2**  
Fixed Spool 14ft + Reducer RRP NOW £525 **£459.99**  
Casts 4-8oz (112-225g)

**Tournament Match Pro MK2**  
Multiplier 13ft 11in + Reducer RRP NOW £525 **£469.99**  
Casts 4-7oz (125-200g)

**SHIMANO SURF RODS**  
Fishing rods for beach fishing

**SPEEDMASTER**  
Lite Rod + 2 Tips

- High Modulus Full Carbon + HPC blank with Nanosheet technology produces lighter, stronger blank with increased responsiveness & casting distance
- Fuji Fuzite K Type anti-tangle guides
- Fuji DPS reel seat
- Ultra sensitive solid tip design
- Extra fast action for increased tip speed when casting

RRP	NOW
13ft 120g / 4.25oz	£194.99 <b>£159.99</b>

**SPEEDMASTER - BXG Surf Rods**

- HPC200+NANO technology

RRP	NOW
14ft Tubular 225g	£204.99 <b>£164.99</b>
14ft Solid 225g	£204.99 <b>£164.99</b>
14ft Hybrid 225g	£204.99 <b>£164.99</b>
14ft 6in Tubular 225g	£214.99 <b>£174.99</b>
14ft 6in Solid 225g	£214.99 <b>£174.99</b>
14ft 6in Hybrid 225g	£214.99 <b>£174.99</b>

**SPEEDMASTER - Beach Rods**  
High Modulus Full Carbon + HPC blank with Nanosheet technology produces lighter, stronger blank with increased responsiveness and casting distance.

RRP	NOW
14ft 9in Solid + 3 Tips 120g / 4oz	£214.99 <b>£179.99</b>
15ft 5in Solid 150g / 6oz	£214.99 <b>£149</b>

**SHIMANO SURF RODS**  
Fishing rods for beach fishing

**STC - Travel Surf Rods**

- 6 Pieces
- Blank material: XT60 + NANO
- Reel seat: Shimano DPS
- Guide type: Shimano Stainless Steel Hardline
- Number of guides: 9
- Packaged in a hardcase tube

RRP	NOW
13ft 225g	£224.99 <b>£199.99</b>
14ft 225g	£249.99 <b>£229.99</b>

**SURF LEADER ULTRA - BX Surf Rods**  
The flagship in surf casting rods with unbelievable distance casting ability

RRP	NOW
13ft 11in Tubular 225g	£484.99 <b>£399.99</b>
13ft 11in Solid 225g	£484.99 <b>£399.99</b>
14ft 9in Tubular 225g	£484.99 <b>£399.99</b>
14ft 9in Solid 225g	£484.99 <b>£399.99</b>

**ULTEGA - BX Surf Rods**  
Hi-Power X construction for reduced blank twist and greater rod strength - a true casting machine

RRP	NOW
13ft 11in Tubular 225g	£299.99 <b>£264.99</b>
13ft 11in Solid 225g	£299.99 <b>£264.99</b>
14ft 9in Tubular 225g	£309.99 <b>£269.99</b>
14ft 9in Solid 225g	£309.99 <b>£269.99</b>

**SHIMANO SURFCASTING REELS**

**Aerlex 10000XSB**  
Surf Casting Reel RRP £94.99 **£69.99**

**Speedmaster 14000XS**  
Reel RRP £129.99 **£99.99**

**Ultragra XSD 5500 Surf**  
Reel / Big Pit Reel RRP £149.99 **£129.99**

**Ultragra 14000**  
XSD Reel RRP £174.99 **£139.99**

**Ultragra XSE 10400**  
Reel RRP £279.99 **£159.99**

**Ultragra C14+ 14000 XSC**  
Reel RRP £279.99 **£229.99**

**SHIMANO SURFCASTING REELS**

**Surfleader C14+**  
Reel RRP £284.99 **£229.99**

**Power Aero 14000**  
XSB Reel RRP £379.99 **£319.99**

**Fliegen 355D**  
Reel RRP £419.99 **£349.99**

**Bull's Eye 9120**  
Surf Reel RRP £379.99 **£349.99**

**Bull's Eye 9100**  
Surf Reel RRP £379.99 **£349.99**

**Aero Technium MgS XSD**  
14000 Reel **NEW FOR 2022** **£619.99**

**DAIWA SURF REELS for 2022**  
Fishing reels for beach fishing

**Shorecast - 5000B**  
Fixed spool surf reel RRP £89.99 **£79.99**

**Shorecast - 6000B**  
Fixed spool surf reel RRP £89.99 **£79.99**

**20 Crosscast**  
35 SCW 5000C QD Surf reel RRP £110 **£89.99**

**20 Crosscast**  
45 SCW 5000C QD Surf reel RRP £135 **£109.99**

**19 Emblem**  
Surf 45 SCW QD Surfcasting reel RRP £185 **£159.99**

**20 T Basia**  
45 SCW 5000C QD Surf reel RRP £675 **£559.99**

**DAIWA MULTIPLIER SURF REELS**

**7HT Millionaire**  
Tournament RRP £210 **£149.99**

**7HT Millionaire**  
Mag RRP £375 **£269.99**

**7HT Millionaire Mag**  
Super Tuned RRP £560 **£399.99**

**SL20SH Sealine**  
Slosh RRP £130 **£89.99**

**SL30SH Sealine**  
Slosh RRP £130 **£89.99**

**SONIK GRAVITY X5 HT**

Unground carbon finish at rod joints makes it easier to take apart after use  
White hollow carbon tip for easy bite detection in poor light conditions  
Fuji corrosion control frames provide 7 times more corrosion resistance  
Shrink wrap on the lower handle to improve grip whilst casting  
Super lightweight high modulus carbon blank  
XS multi-directional nanofibre tip section lay-up  
Fuji Alconite K Series guides  
Fuji DPS reel fitting

It's an absolutely fantastic shore rod  
'The ultimate power is utterly immense and evident during the casting process'  
Paul Fenech - Sea Angler review issue 566 Jan/Feb '19

RRP	NOW
14ft - 5-7oz - 2 Piece	£329.99 <b>£249.99</b>
15ft 4in - 4-8oz - 3 Piece	£349.99 <b>£259.99</b>

A true all rounder...

**DAIWA SURF RODS**  
Fishing rods for beach fishing

**AIR SURF - Surf Rods**

- SVF and X4S
- Mega Top Carbon Hybrid Tip
- Guides: Fuji K Guide with Alconite (Multiplier)
- Guides: Fuji LC with Alconite (Fixed Spool)

RRP	NOW
13ft 6in Multiplier 2 Piece 4-8oz	£480 <b>£369.99</b>
14ft 2in Multiplier 2 Piece 4-8oz	£505 <b>£389.99</b>
15ft 3in Fixed Spool 3 Piece 3-7oz	£525 <b>£399.99</b>

**SALTIST - Surf Rods**

RRP	NOW
12ft 6in Multiplier 100-200g	£210 <b>£169</b>
13ft 6in Multiplier 100-200g	£235 <b>£189</b>
14ft 2in Multiplier 100-200g	£240 <b>£195</b>
14ft Fixed Spool 84-150g	£245 <b>£195</b>
14ft Fixed Spool Hybrid 3-6oz	£255 <b>£199</b>
15ft Fixed Spool Hybrid 3-6oz	£270 <b>£199</b>

**TOURNAMENT - PRO Surf Rods**

RRP	NOW
11ft 6in Bass Fixed Spool 1-3oz	£250 <b>See Website</b>
13ft 6in Multiplier 3-7oz	£330 <b>See Website</b>
14ft 2in Multiplier 4-8oz	£350 <b>See Website</b>

**TOURNAMENT - HT Surf Rods**

RRP	NOW
14ft Fixed Spool Hybrid 3-6oz	£315 <b>£249</b>
15ft Fixed Spool Hybrid 3-6oz	£335 <b>£269</b>

**SONIK SURF REELS**

**SKS 8000**  
Designed to give smooth long casts, the large handle helps to speed gear and fish back to the beach. RRP £49.99 **£39.99**

**AVX 10,000**  
Superbly smooth & highly functional reel with slow oscillation & long coned spool for super smooth line lay and ultra-long distance casts. RRP £149.99 **£99.99**

**DOMINATOR X 10,000**  
Built to withstand the demands of harsh saltwater environments the massive 18kg micro adjust drag will cope with battling large fish in tough conditions... **£79.99**

**AKIOS SURFCASTING REELS**  
Fishing reels for beach fishing

**Fury FX8**  
Fixed spool reel RRP £74.99 **£64.99**

**Fireloop**  
Fixed spool reel RRP £109.99 **£87.99**

**The Guvnor GUV GX8**  
Fixed spool surf reel RRP £149.99 **£99**

**Air Loop R8 / R10**  
Long cast fixed spool reel R8 - RRP £145.99 **£114.99**  
R10 - RRP £154.99 **£134.99**

**Utopia CX8 / SX8**  
Fixed spool reel CX8 - RRP £129.99 **£114.99**  
SX8 - RRP £169.99 **£144.99**

**Ironloop AK100**  
Fixed spool reel RRP £229.99 **£199**

**AKIOS FURY FX420**  
CONTINENTAL ROD + 3 PIECE

FEEL the FURY

The AKIOS FURY is sure to set new standards, the rod looks and behaves fantastically being tested for over 6 months. The AKIOS FURY rod series offers unbelievable value! Made from high modulus carbon fibre, incorporating a spliced tip. SeaGuide quality guides and reel seats. It is a true GEM. It's sure to become a best seller's in the Surf market in the U.K. around Europe and further afield.

RRP	NOW
14'4.2m - 100-180g (4-6oz)	£149.99 <b>£129.99</b>
15'4.6m - 100-180g (4-6oz)	£149.99 <b>£129.99</b>

**AKIOS ENDURANCE PRO RS2**  
3 PIECE (Plus extra tip section)  
4.26m/14ft + 112-225g/4-8oz

A VERSATILE DUO... IN ONE!

Specifically designed for the modern shore angler that demands versatility without compromising on performance, the dual tipped AKIOS ENDURANCE PRO is built around a high modulus HMX40T carbon blank that generates a remarkable amount of casting power.

SENSITIVE HYBRID TIP OR POWER TIP

DUAL TIP

RRP £269.99 **£219.99**

**AKIOS AIRSPEED SURF 435 MKII BLACK EDITION**  
CONTINENTAL + 3 PIECE + 4.35m/14.6ft + 112-225g/4-8oz

THE BEST JUST GOT EVEN BETTER...

Striking looks that will turn the heads of envious anglers right along the beach, but more importantly, the outstanding casting performance will enable baits to be sent out further and cover a wider expanse of ground than ever before.

RRP £379.99 **£319.99**

**AKIOS AIRPOWER RXP 435**  
CONTINENTAL ROD + 3 PIECE + 4.35m/14ft 6in + 120-225g/4-8oz

THE THREE PIECE BEAST!

Arguably the most powerful three-piece continental style rod on the market, the AKIOS AIRPOWER has been designed with one thing in mind, to offer EXTREME casting capabilities. With its insanely powerful high modulus HMX46T carbon construction, progressive action and lightning fast recovery, the rod sets new standards for modern three-piece rods.

HIGH MODULUS NRG + HMX46T CARBON BLANK HYBRID / SPLICED CARBON TIP FOR ULTIMATE BITE DETECTION

RRP £439.99 **£339.99**





# SANDILANDS

A popular Lincolnshire match venue situated halfway between Mablethorpe and Skegness

**S**andilands is quiet, sandy beach situated close to Sutton on Sea on the Lincolnshire coast. It is a stretch of the coast that offers the anglers a variety of species to target. If driving, aim for the golf course next to which there is a large car park. You have an easy walk up the concrete steps and onto the beach. It's a very popular beach with families. It is also a popular spot with anglers.

## SPECIES

A couple of years ago they had a big run of big bass with several going into double figures. Although the bigger bass have not shown in large number since there is still a chance of catching some nice fish.

In the warmer months along with the bass the smoothhounds arrive. These can be great sport with many are into double figures. Crab is a good bait but if you are struggling to get hold of crab, try a whole squid. Thornback rays also show up on this part of the coast too during the summer and autumn. In the colder months the whiting and dabs take control and it can be 'dab city' on some occasions. There have been a few cod caught in the past few years but they still are not in the great numbers that where in years gone by.



Fishing is on to clean sand



Sandilands is a popular match venue





## BAIT & TACTICS

This is a popular mark for local competitions. For the whiting and dabs lugworm can be collected locally. The dabs like the worms if they have gone a bit on the sticky side. Three hooks are allowed in many of the matches and it can certainly be a busy session especially around the end of October through to January. If you use either size 1 or 2 hooks they will be ideal for the whiting and dabs but will also land a decent cod. I like the Cox & Rawle Aberdeen patterns. There can be times when distance will pay off so a clipped down rig can be the best bet. On other occasions you will catch well at 40 yards so a three-hook flapper will come into play then. It's a nice, clean, sandy beach so you can use either a continental style rod matched with a fixed spool or a multiplier rod with a decent bite indication, so you don't want a rod that's too stiff.

It the summer months when targeting the hounds you will have to beef up a bit, but you can have some good fun on lighter rods. Although using the lighter lines can end in tears if you encounter one of the bigger hounds – they have been caught over 20lb – so make sure that you have your drag set right, and if the fish wants to run, let it run. As mentioned earlier, crab is certainly the best bait offered on a Pennell rig. I like the up and over with a long trace and the Cox & Rawle Chinu hooks, size 2/0 is ideal, with an Octopus 1/0 or 2/0 as your top hook. As you come from the car park I have found that to the left can be the best bet. For the bass go to the right behind the old golf course. ■

Beach huts  
along the beach  
at Sandilands



## NEED TO KNOW

### GETTING THERE

Follow the signs to Sutton on Sea and go through the town towards Chapel St. Leonards on the coast road. If using a SatNav use the postcode LN12 2RJ.



### LOCAL TACKLE SHOPS

■ Big Catch Tackle, Trunch Lane, Chapel St. Leonards PE24 5TU.  
Tel: 01754 872631.



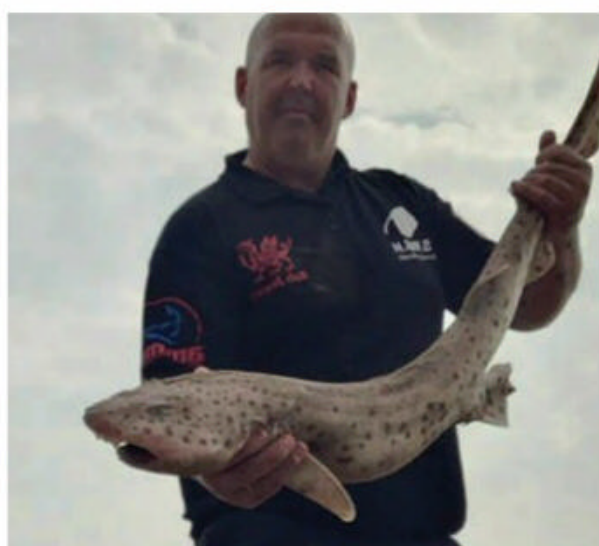
# MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Catch a specimen fish to stand a chance of winning some great new prizes on offer

**F**ANCY WINNING A NEW ROD AND REEL COMBO from Okuma by catching a great fish? In our catch competition, your target is to catch one over the weight given on our nominated species list. If you do, enter our contest and you automatically stand a chance of winning either our shore or boat prize.

Each issue we award a superb Okuma package to the captor of the best shore fish and best boat-caught fish, both chosen on merit.

Prizes are awarded at our discretion and Okuma reserves the right to send alternative prizes.



**Robert Jowett, FISH:** 12lb 4oz bull huss  
**BAIT:** Bluey **VENUE:** Monknash, South Wales  
**DATE:** May 3rd



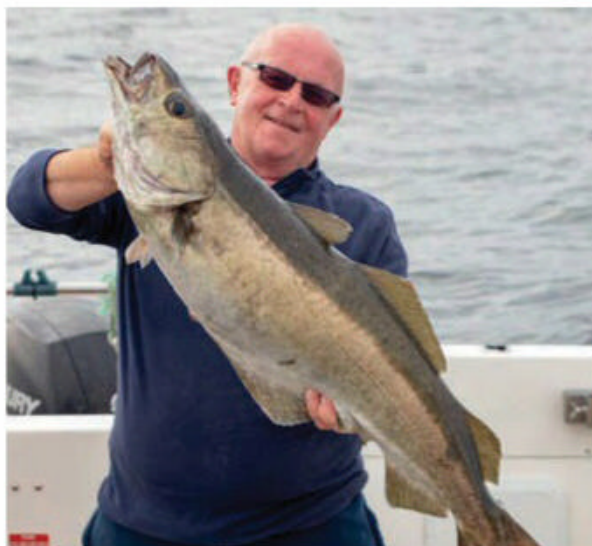
**Ian Murphy FISH:** 45lb stingray  
**BAIT:** Squid/crab **VENUE:** St Osyth, Essex  
**DATE:** May 15th



**Nico Wilson FISH:** 27lb 13oz tope  
**BAIT:** Mackerel fillet soaked in Holy mackerel  
**VENUE:** SW Scotland **DATE:** May 15th



**Jake Davison FISH:** 150lb common skate  
**VENUE:** West Scotland **BAIT:** Dogfish



**Chris Way FISH:** 17lb 8oz pollack **BAIT:** Pink 6in Sidewinders **VENUE:** English Channel on 'Happy Days' skippered by Aaron Lidstone



**Wayne Civil, Somerset FISH:** 10lb 7oz 12dr bass **BAIT:** Peeler crab  
**VENUE:** Bristol Channel reef mark  
**DATE:** May 16th



**John Barrott, Gwynedd FISH:** 55lb tope **BAIT:** Mackerel flapper  
**VENUE:** Western Flier, Shell Island **DATE:** May 14th



**Sean Hall, Plymouth FISH:** 8lb 4oz thornback ray **BAIT:** Squid bomb  
**VENUE:** Minehead **DATE:** May 16th



**Steve Ace**

**FISH:** 45lb tope  
**VENUE:** West Wales  
**BAIT:** fresh mackerel  
**DATE:** May 24th



**James Orr, Bristol** **FISH:** 47lb tope  
**VENUE:** South Wales **BAIT:** half a mackerel  
**DATE:** May 25th



**Paul Williams, Port talbot**  
**FISH:** 35lb conger **BAIT:** Mackerel  
**VENUE:** Mumbles



**Keith Robertshaw, Portsmouth**

**FISH:** 13lb undulate ray **BAIT:** Mackerel and squid strip  
**VENUE:** Weymouth aboard Flamer IV **DATE:** May 9th



**Brian Stew, Ashford, Kent**  
**FISH:** 12lb 3oz smoothhound **BAIT:** peeler crab and prawn cocktail  
**VENUE:** Reculver, Kent  
**DATE:** May 26th



**Neil Law, Llantwit Major** **FISH:** 55lb tope  
**BAIT:** whole mackerel **VENUE:** Oxwich Point  
**DATE:** May 31st



**Richard Lavender, Hastings**

**FISH:** 17lb 7oz spurdog. **BAIT:** Mackerel strip.  
**VENUE:** Hastings



**David Hewitt, Ipswich**

**FISH:** 20lb 8oz blonde ray **VENUE:** drifting a bank aboard Flamer IV **BAIT:** squid and mackerel strips. **DATE:** May 27th



**Liam Hartnell, Axmouth, Devon**

**FISH:** 14lb 10oz bull huss **BAIT:** mackerel  
**VENUE:** Valencia Island, County Kerry  
**DATE:** May 26th

**MONTHLY WINNERS:**  
**SHORE:** Ian Murphy, Essex  
**BOAT:** Richard Lavender, Hastings



## MISSION RECORD HOLDERS

### BASS

■ **Shore:** 19lb 13oz 8dr  
John Locker  
■ **Boat:** 19lb 4oz  
Wayne Milton

### BLACK BREAM

■ **Shore:** 5lb 5oz 1dr  
C Le Monnier  
■ **Boat:** 6lb 6oz  
Tony Heart

### COUCH'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 2lb 15oz 1dr  
Lynton Carre  
■ **Boat:** 7lb Becky  
Lee Hodges

### GILTHEAD BREAM

■ **Shore:** 9lb 8oz  
Scott Smy  
■ **Boat:** 10lb 2oz  
Roger Simcox

### PANDORA'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 1lb 2oz  
Baz Wheeler

### RAY'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 6lb 1oz  
Jordan Colwell  
■ **Boat:** 6lb 4oz  
Patrick Meegan

### BRILL

■ **Shore:** 6lb 12oz  
Mark Griggs  
■ **Boat:** 13lb 10oz  
Tony Hayward

### BULL HUSS

■ **Shore:** 21lb 9oz  
M Urquhart  
■ **Boat:** 23lb  
D Nicholson

### BALLAN WRASSE

■ **Shore:** 9lb 4oz  
Darren Swift  
■ **Boat:** 9lb  
Glen Carter

### CUCKOO WRASSE

■ **Shore:** 1lb 13oz  
Joe Edward  
■ **Boat:** 2lb 4oz  
D Glendenning

### COALFISH

■ **Boat:** 34lb  
Peter Sillito

### COD

■ **Shore:** 32lb  
Adrian Lloyd  
■ **Boat:** 49lb  
Tony Urwin

### CONGER EEL

■ **Shore:** 66lb 8oz  
Andy Eke  
■ **Boat:** 109lb 8oz  
Roger Beer

### DAB

■ **Shore:** 2lb 4oz 12dr  
Jason Tucker  
■ **Boat:** 1lb 15oz  
Sean McCaffrey

### DOVER SOLE

■ **Shore:** 5lb 5oz  
Phil Troke  
■ **Boat:** 4lb 6oz  
M Le-Moignan

### FLOUNDER

■ **Shore:** 4lb 14oz 8dr  
Paul Blehs  
■ **Boat:** 5lb 3oz 14dr  
Philip Dawson

### HALIBUT

■ **Boat:** 76lb  
Peter Sillito

### LEMON SOLE

■ **Boat:** 3lb 3oz  
G Newcombe

### MEGRIM

■ **Boat:** 2lb 14oz  
Philip Lewis

### PLAICE

■ **Shore:** 6lb 11oz  
Martin Coates  
■ **Boat:** 8lb 0oz 8dr  
M Mowbray

### LING

■ **Shore:** 18lb 11oz  
Ross McKay  
■ **Boat:** 88lb 6oz 8dr  
Gareth Laurenson

### GOLDEN GREY MULLET

■ **Shore:** 3lb 8oz 8dr  
D Woolcombe  
■ **Boat:** 4lb 11oz  
Stephan Martini

### TRIGGER FISH

■ **Boat:** 5lb  
Gordon Baines  
■ **Shore:** 3lb 7oz  
Mark Cundick

### MULLET

■ **Shore:** 11lb 8oz  
Glenn Lane  
■ **Boat:** 11lb  
Chris Harris

### POLLACK

■ **Shore:** 18lb 4oz  
Chris Griffin  
■ **Boat:** 27lb 1oz  
Barry James

### BLONDE RAY

■ **Shore:** 31lb  
Gary Tucker  
■ **Boat:** 39lb 10oz  
S Underwood

### COMMON SKATE

■ **Shore:** 232lb  
Lew Marsden  
■ **Boat:** 249lb  
Hans Dykman

### CUCKOO RAY

■ **Shore:** 4lb 11oz  
Kevin Hughes

### EAGLE RAY

■ **Shore:** 102lb  
Ray Lewis

### ELECTRIC RAY

■ **Boat:** 52lb  
Chris Wood

### MARBLED RAY

■ **Shore:** 11lb 10z 5dr  
Pierre Garrick  
■ **Boat:** 21lb 7oz 12dr  
David Bree

### SMALL-EYED RAY

■ **Shore:** 17lb 8oz  
M Robertson  
■ **Boat:** 21lb  
Dave Lynes

### SPOTTED RAY

■ **Shore:** 7lb 14oz  
Liam Warder  
■ **Boat:** 8lb 4oz  
Neil Buckett

### STINGRAY

■ **Shore:** 75lb 4oz  
Ed Spring  
■ **Boat:** 69lb 8oz  
John Styles

### THORNBARK RAY

■ **Shore:** 22lb 11oz 10dr  
Mike Johnson  
■ **Boat:** 24lb 11oz  
Gary Mewdell

### UNDULATE RAY

■ **Shore:** 20lb 1oz  
Steve Harder  
■ **Boat:** 25lb 2oz  
Scott Russell

### ANGEL SHARK

■ **Boat:** 54lb  
John Johnson

### BLUE SHARK

■ **Boat:** 253lb  
James Fellows

### MAKO SHARK

■ **Shore:** 194lb 4oz  
Andrew Griffith  
■ **Boat:** 550lb,  
Simon Davidson

### PORBEAGLE SHARK

■ **Boat:** 350lb  
Bob Smith

### SMOOTHOUND

■ **Shore:** 28lb 10oz  
Steve Cullen  
■ **Boat:** 30lb  
Trevor Knight

### SPURDOG

■ **Shore:** 18lb 14oz  
William Roche  
■ **Boat:** 27lb 3oz  
Paul Westaway

### TOPE

■ **Shore:** 66lb 10oz  
Michael Bell  
■ **Boat:** 86lb  
David Cook

### TORSK

■ **Shore:** 9lb 5oz  
Tommy Fraser

### TURBOT

■ **Shore:** 20lb 2oz  
Eddy Barham  
■ **Boat:** 32lb 1oz  
Steve Scally

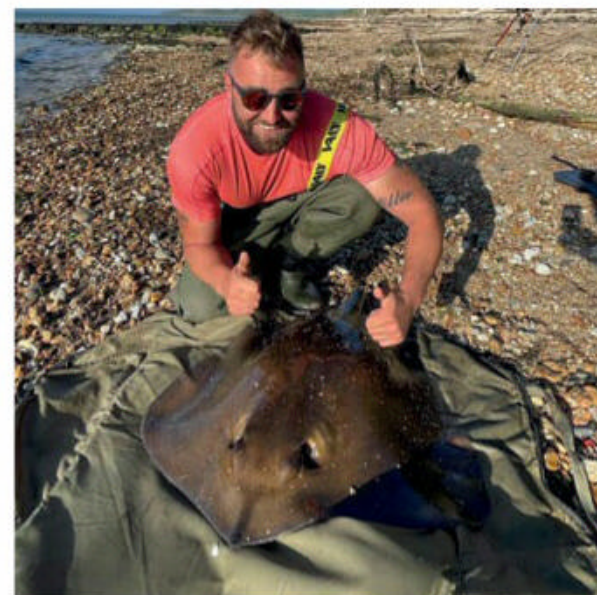
### WHITE SKATE

■ **Boat:** 160lb  
Pete Hammersley



**Tim Curtis, Somerset**

**FISH:** 14lb 9oz Smoothhound **BAIT:** Mackerel head **VENUE:** Shurton Bars (Hinckley) **DATE:** 4th June



**Jason Williams, Sandown**

**FISH:** 57lb 10z stingray **BAIT:** ragworm **VENUE:** Isle of Wight **DATE:** May 12th

## HOW TO ENTER

Entry by email only to [sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk](mailto:sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk)

Please supply these details: angler's name, age, address, telephone number, email, type of fish, weight of fish, where caught, date caught, bait/rig, whether caught from shore or boat, if from charter boat, give name of boat, port and skipper. Please state if the fish was retained or returned.

## YOUR MISSION TARGETS...

Catch a fish on this list at the weight or above in your region to qualify for the chance to win prizes in our Mission catch competition.

To enter, send us the details requested on the entry form (left) and email that information and your picture to [sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk](mailto:sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk)

	SHORE	BOAT
Bass	7lb	9lb
Black bream	2lb	3lb
Red bream	2lb	3lb
Couch's &		
Pandora's bream	1lb 8oz	1lb 8oz
Gilthead bream	4lb	4lb
Ray's bream	3lb	3lb
Brill	3lb	5lb
Bull huss	8lb	12lb
Cod	7lb	10lb
Conger	20lb	40lb
Dab & megrim	1lb	1lb
Dover/lemon sole	2lb	2lb
Flounder	2lb	2lb
Halibut	20lb	20lb
Ling	5lb	19lb
Mullet	4lb	5lb
Golden grey mullet	2lb	2lb
Plaice	2lb	4lb
Pollack/coalfish	6lb	12lb
Common skate	60lb	100lb
Blonde ray	12lb	17lb
Thornback ray	9lb	14lb
Small-eyed/undulate	7lb	11lb
Ray (other)	3lb	5lb
Sting/eagle ray	20lb	25lb
Smoothhound	10lb	14lb
Spurdog	7lb	11lb
Tope	27lb	35lb
Trigger fish	2lb	3lb
Turbot	10lb	13lb
Wrasse (ballan)	4lb	4lb
Wrasse (other)	1lb	1lb
Blue shark	-	60lb
Porbeagle/thresher	-	100lb

## Send us your entries and win some great prizes

■ **SHORE: LURE OPTION:**  
Solaris 4000 or 5000 reel  
RRP: £60  
Epixor 15-50g rod  
RRP: £80



■ **SHORE: BAIT OPTION**  
DSA reel  
RRP: £60  
Wave Power surf rod

■ **BOAT**  
Classic CLX  
RRP: £60  
Cortez Boat Rod  
RRP: £90

## THE RULES...

■ Only fish caught since June 2022 are eligible.

■ We must see a picture of the fish.

■ We may refuse an entry. ■ Enter by email only (please include all of the information requested in How to Enter panel) to [sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk](mailto:sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk)

■ Prizes as stated (Okuma reserves the right to send alternatives).

■ No correspondence will be entered into.





# SUMMER HOLIDAY SESSIONS

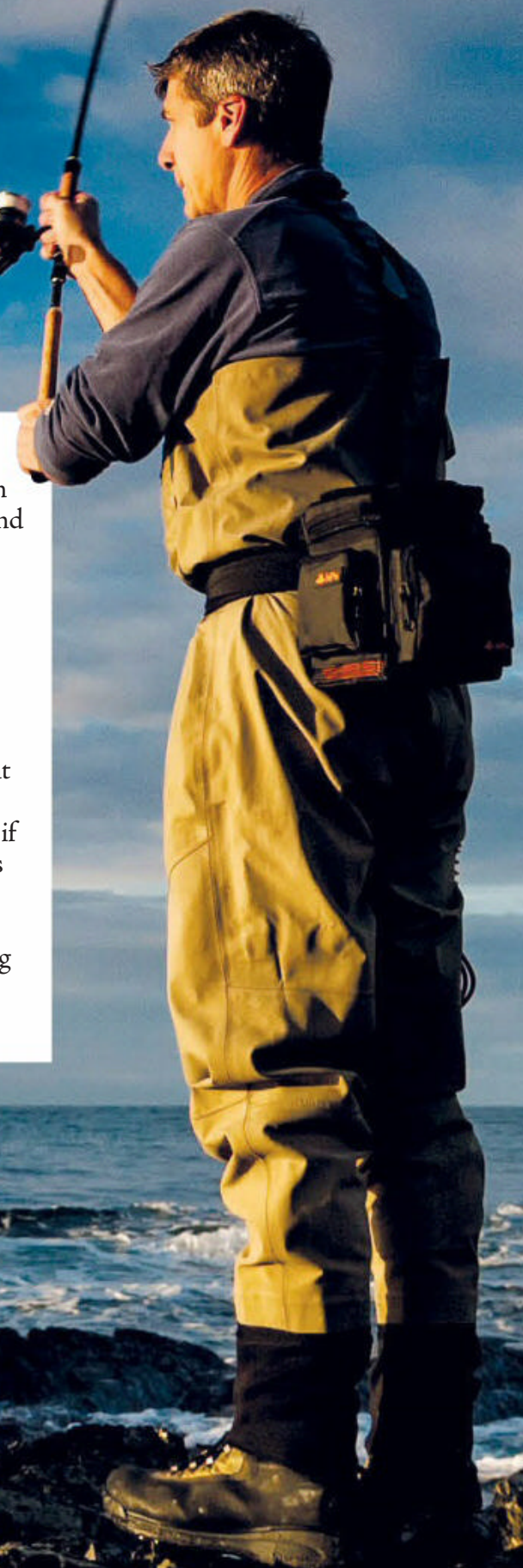
Family seaside holidays can offer up new and exciting venues that scream bass fishing – Henry Gilbey explains how to make the most of limited opportunities to ditch the donkey rides and go fishing!

**I**wonder how many anglers go on holiday with their family and, as if by magic, end up close to the sea and a bit of fishing! I can't imagine there are many people out there who don't love a seaside holiday, but how does the mad keen angler get out and about for a bit of bass fishing and also spend time with their family? I must admit that it's a balancing act I have never really had to get used to because, as a family, we live so close to the sea and there is loads of fishing around us which I can fit in around work and family. However, I do remember when my wife and I went on our honeymoon many years ago now. We had to go somewhere where there was no fishing around us because I couldn't trust myself not to turn it into a fishing holiday! My wife is very easy going and as a dad I love spending

time with my girls. The only real time my fishing becomes a problem is when I've been doing a lot of night fishing at weird hours and I sometimes end up a bit overtired and grumpy! We are going to avoid that here though.

## HOMEWORK

If you end up going away on your holiday and you know that there is some half-decent bass fishing around, and you know a bit about it, then very well done indeed! What if you suspect that there might be a bit of bass fishing around your holiday spot but you're not quite sure? I would urge you to use all the available online resources before heading away (under the guise of looking for good family walks or quiet beaches, of course!).▶







Use Google Earth to have a really good virtual look around the coastline where you are going on holiday. Have a look for reefs, beaches, estuaries and other features. Make sure to use an app like What3Words to save any interesting looking locations; it links into Google Maps so you can at least get onto the right path if you go looking for these marks on holiday. Do as much homework as you can before you head away on holiday.

I would also ask around on social media, but don't go expecting any anglers to hand over a bunch of their favourite bass marks just like that. There is no harm in asking if a certain part of the coastline is worth looking at for bass fishing because you are going on holiday there, but please make sure to respect any help you might be given and don't go shouting about where you end up fishing. I am all for anglers getting out and about and fishing where they want, indeed I would suggest that having such an accessible coastline is surely a big part of the appeal of saltwater fishing, but in bass fishing especially us local anglers try our best to keep good marks as quiet as possible for a number of different reasons which are not entirely selfish. What I do subscribe to though is that if an

**If you family likes a bit of a lie in then those early morning sessions have suddenly become very realistic**







Google Earth is a great resource to check out the terrain



A bit of homework before you arrive will pay dividends



Match your lures to the type of marks you are expecting to fish

angler is prepared to do a bit of homework and legwork then good on them. None of us own the spots we like to fish.

The great thing about lure fishing for bass is that it's so easy to go and do. Holiday time with the family is hugely important of course, but if you are okay with a bit less sleep than the rest of your family then I would suggest that lure fishing is the best way to fit a bit of fishing in. There is no bait collection or purchasing or storage to think about, and a decent lure setup takes up very little room in a family car or caravan. If your son or daughter or wife is into fishing then that's a bonus. That aside, let's think about what you really need to go out fishing when bass on lures is our aim. I don't know how much you can push for a bit of night lure fishing, but we all know how good first light can often

be for bass. If not, I am very much one of those lure anglers who likes to fish a lot of shorter, sharper sessions instead of the odd marathon which I don't think is as effective. If your family likes a bit of a lie in on holiday then those early morning sessions have suddenly become very realistic, and if you can cope with less sleep you could sneak out for a quick session or two in the dark. Please take it easy though on marks you are not familiar with. Don't push rough conditions at night at all, indeed I'd be tempted to stick to beaches for my night fishing exploits if I didn't know the area.

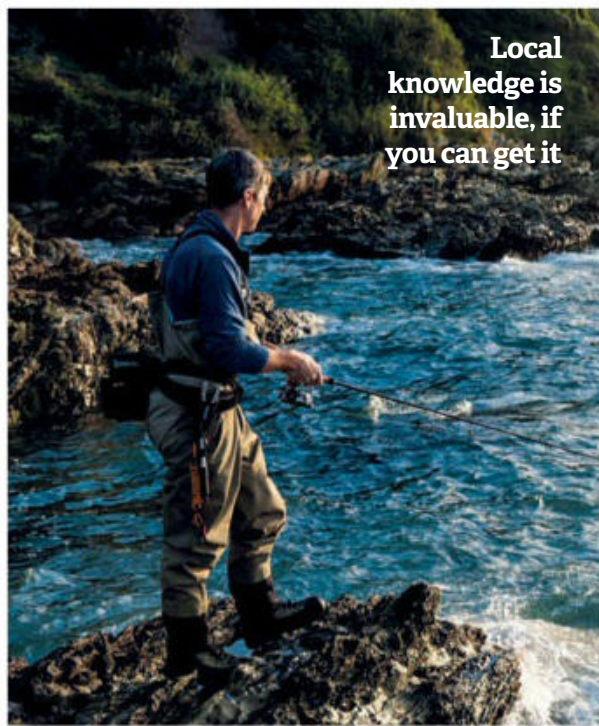
## TACKLE

Have a think about the coastline where you are going on holiday and then try to match a couple of lure boxes to what you would expect to find. There isn't much point going geared up for surf fishing if there are no surf beaches



An early morning session, a bass, and back in time for breakfast!





Local knowledge is invaluable, if you can get it

around, just as a light tackle estuary approach might not be the best for those shallow, snag-infested reefs that can often switch on when first light coincides with high water. You are no doubt going to have a car full of the rest of your family's clobber when you go away, but I bet you can sneak at least a lure rod and reel and a few lure boxes in there. Even better if you can break down a travel-style lure rod and tuck it safely away in the family car, and you can fold a pair of waders up pretty small if need be.

## LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Check around for a local tackle shop and drop in for a chat. As with asking for specific marks, don't go expecting the world of local bass fishing locations to be dropped in your lap, but it never hurts to ask, and even better if you buy a few bits and pieces. We all need to do what we can to support local tackle shops. Have you looked around for a local fishing guide? Charter boats are a no-brainer of course, but do you want to take whole days out of your family holiday? If it's no problem then go for it, but shore-based fishing guides for bass fishing aren't exactly commonplace. The outstanding Marc Cowling of South Devon Bass Guide is who I would always recommend for the UK, but firstly he is often booked up way in advance, and secondly, he isn't going to be of much use if you aren't going on holiday anywhere near the beautiful south Devon coastline! If you are anywhere near Padstow on the north coast of Cornwall then I would urge you to contact the Padstow Angling Centre and ask for a session or two of guided shore fishing with Ed Schliffke.

## RECCE

I would guess that much of any holiday bass fishing you might be able to do is going to be down to you and your own efforts. As a family we are always out and about on dog walks or

going to the beach and so on, so you need to get creative. Many are the times when unknown to my family I have "suggested" a long dog walk that just so happens to take in a section of coastline that I want a closer look at. It's called killing two birds with one stone, and a family day at the beach is surely a good time to check out local ground if you also make sure to be there around low water to really get a good look. You need to get creative.

## TIDES

If I was away on holiday and I found some lovely shallow reefs on a "random" family or dog walk then I'd be tempted to try and time a session there starting from high water and fishing a few hours off the early ebb tide. On a beach at night I'd think about starting half an hour after low water and fishing a few hours of the flood tide, and at the mouth of an estuary I am always keen on the last two hours of the ebb. If you can find areas of bladderwrack in estuaries then I would have a go around the top of the tide when they are covered with water. A bit of holiday bass fishing might well be slightly out of your comfort zone, but with fishing you just never know what's going to happen, and how good would it feel to get back to your family in time for breakfast having landed a bass or two and with the rest of the day ahead to enjoy with your loved ones. ■

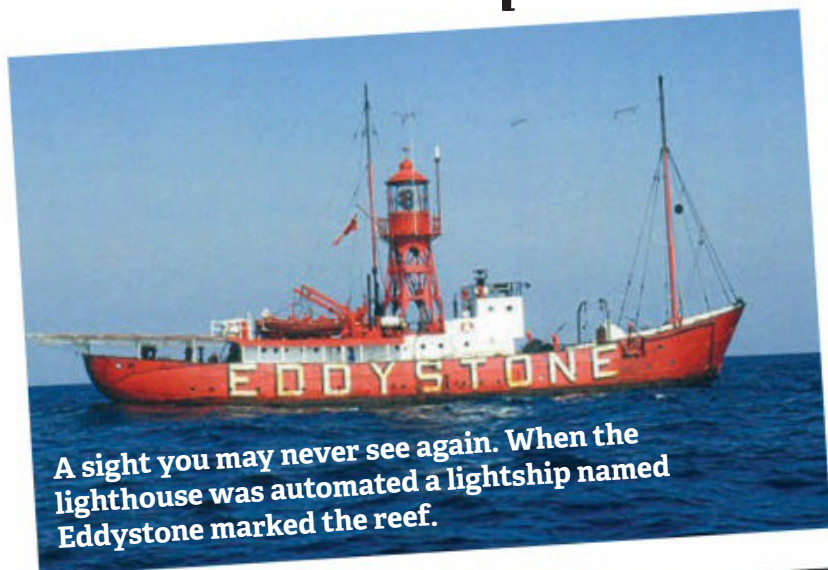






# THE EDDYSTONE

Mike Millman chronicles the history of fishing on one of the UK's most unique reefs

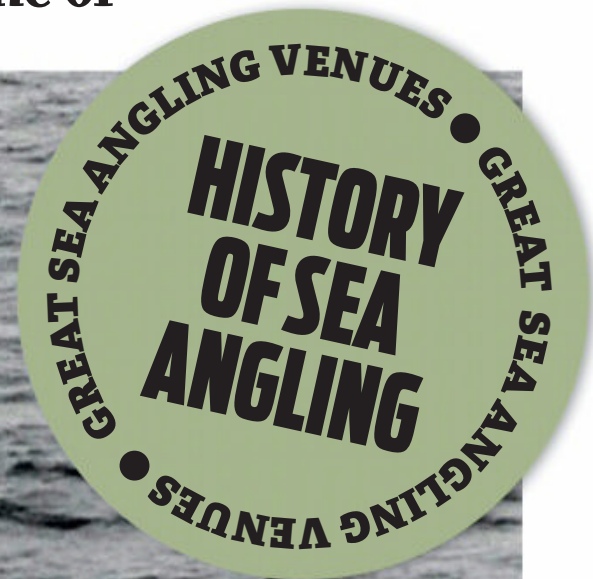


A sight you may never see again. When the lighthouse was automated a lightship named Eddystone marked the reef.

**B**y the turn of 1900 sea angling with rod and line had become a major recreational pastime with its stronghold being the fishing towns and coastline along the English Channel. Seven years earlier the British Sea Anglers' Society had been formed and had its headquarters in London's Fetter Lane off Fleet Street. The membership was principally drawn from the better off and outright wealthy and it had great flair. Angling writers of the time including Frederick Aflalo, who was its founder, and F.D. Holcombe, who between 1900 and 1925 was its secretary. During a visit to England in 1912 Charles Frederick Holder, who had founded the Catalina Tuna Club, addressed the Society members and the following year said in his mammoth book, *Game Fishes of the World*, that the BSAS had international fame and was the most complete and well organised in the world. To say the Society was successful is a gross understatement and had it not been for Adolph Hitler and the Blitz on London, when the premises were destroyed, it would probably have still survived to this day.

In 1925 The Great Western Railway, mindful that its network covered many of the Westcountry coastal towns and those of Wales, published its excellent *Around the Coast with Rod and Line* in which it stated that the Eddystone Reef was like no other and 'Where the wants of all classes of boat anglers are met'.

The Eddystone's first fish of exceptional note was a conger eel of 89lb caught in 1936 on the west side of the reef by a Greek banker called Yanny Jordanopulo who was a regular visitor to Looe in south east Cornwall for boat fishing from Chid Hoskings' boat, *Alert*. It was to remain the biggest until 1970 when the 'wrecking age' with electronics had begun. The fish was brought back to the port of Looe and weighed before many witnesses waiting eagerly at the quayside. ▶



The present Eddystone Lighthouse built by Douglas in 1887 is 170ft tall. Alongside is the 32ft high stump of Smeaton's Tower. The rest of the Tower stands on Plymouth Hoe.



In the 1960s Chid's son, Frank, opened a tackle shop on the town's East Quay and an enlarged version of the picture took centre stage in one of the windows. The next fish to make headlines was a mackerel of 51lb 6 ½oz taken in 1969 by Steven Beazley who was just 12 years old and on the day was fishing from the family boat. Two years later Norwich-based market trader Joyce Yallop was bottom fishing from Alan Dingle's Lady Betty when they spotted what was thought to be a big basking shark – it was actually a big mako and shark gear was swiftly put together. A split mackerel on a 12/0 hook was taken within a minute of being offered and so began a two hour thirty-five minute battle during which the fish tried to ram the boat. It was a battered Joyce and her shark who later that evening had a photo-call at the Shark Club HQ on the East quay.

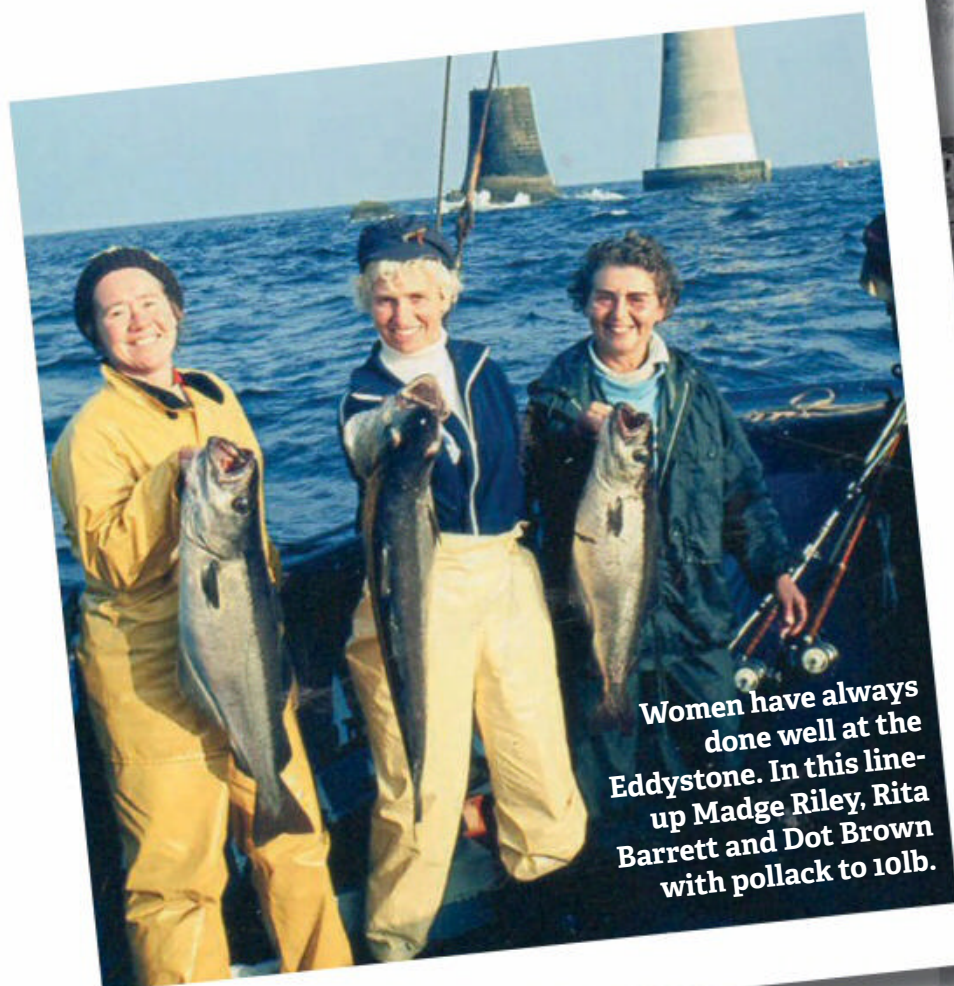
In 1975 rod and line bass professional, Roy Slater, set a new record with a fish of 18lb 6oz and in 1981 Mike Goodacre, who ran the local pub in Millbrook, set a new record for ballan wrasse with an absurd fish of 9lb 6oz.

In the 1970s a group were baffled by a mysterious fish which unfortunately was lost at the gunwale. When they described it to me that evening back at the Barbican mooring I knew it was an example of the extremely rare Banks Oar, a member of the ribbon fish family of which the very much smaller version known as the redband is common is south east Cornwall's Whitsand Bay.

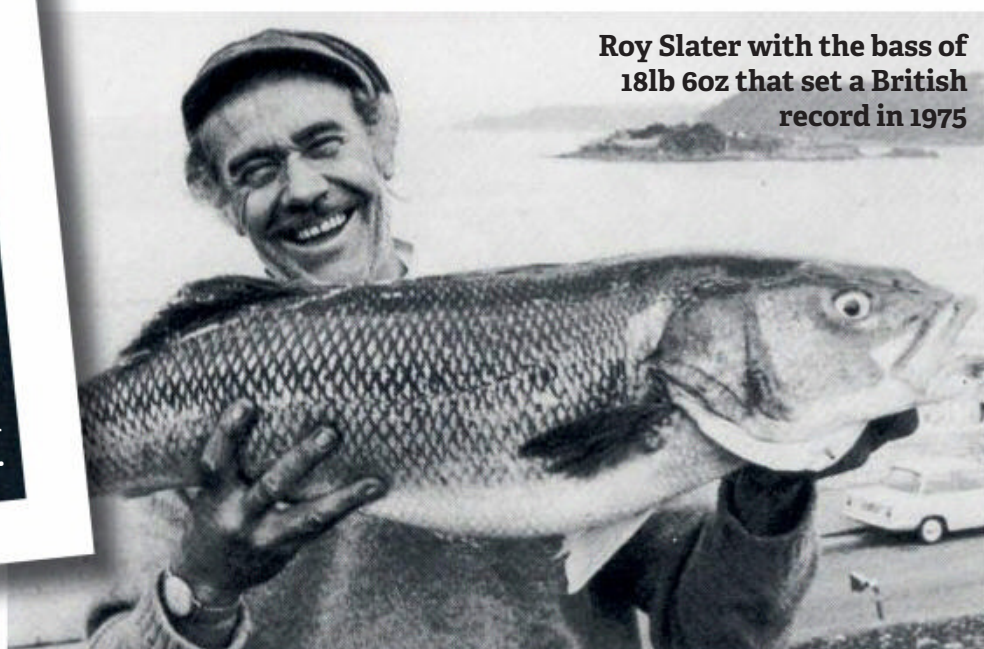
Although the reef is vast there are four areas that are highly favoured by anglers. Not far off the north side of the lighthouse is a channel known as The Gully noted for bass taken by drifting through it with either an artificial eel or a live launce. It was here that Slater caught the



Joyce Yallop with her 500lb mako shark, destined never to be replaced in the British record list



Women have always done well at the Eddystone. In this line-up Madge Riley, Rita Barrett and Dot Brown with pollack to 10lb.



Roy Slater with the bass of 18lb 6oz that set a British record in 1975





**Mike Goodacre's  
9lb 6oz ballan  
wrasse**

record bass and Goodacre the wrasse. Gully specialist George Shapter took hundreds of sizeable fish from it and told the story of a very big mako that hung about for days at the end of the run and pinched many of the bass he was playing.

It was in 1970 that Nor Rocker skipper Dave Elworthy discovered a giant pinnacle of rock rising high out of deep water flanked by two others of lesser size, some way south of the lighthouse. So many fine pollack were taken there I dubbed it Pollack Peak. The fish are usually in the lee of the peak depending on which way the tide is flowing. Drifting it is far more productive than fishing at anchor and the mark is almost as good for specimens now as ever it was. To find the pinnacle with only the aid of a sounder, run south past the reef for about two miles then keep the stump of Smeaton's Tower hidden behind the present

lighthouse and continue south until the mine stack tower on Cornwall's Kit Hill seems to be sitting on top of the lighthouse. The pinnacle will be close by.

The North-East Rock is a great conger mark where the eels will feed in daylight. But when the light goes until about 01:00am you get most of the action. This area of the 'stone out-fishes all others by a massive margin. An aggregate of 300lb-plus by two anglers in five hours says a great deal about the mark. Eels of 50lb have been caught and 40lb fish are reasonably common. Keep the terminal tackle simple – a wire or heavy mono trace to a 9/0 or 10/0 hook with an offset point. Connect the weight to a swivel placed on the reel line and stopped off with a bead. Use a 30lb class rod and a multiplier without a level line facility to complete the set up. If you are lucky to catch any, although it has become more difficult these

days, a flapper mackerel makes a deadly bait. However, its best to be on the safe side and bring squid with you.

A ridge running for some distance at the north west side of the reef is where you will find launce, easily caught with feathers. It is essential to keep them alive in either a cage secured to the gunwale or in a bait well with an air pump; be sure to change the water frequently.

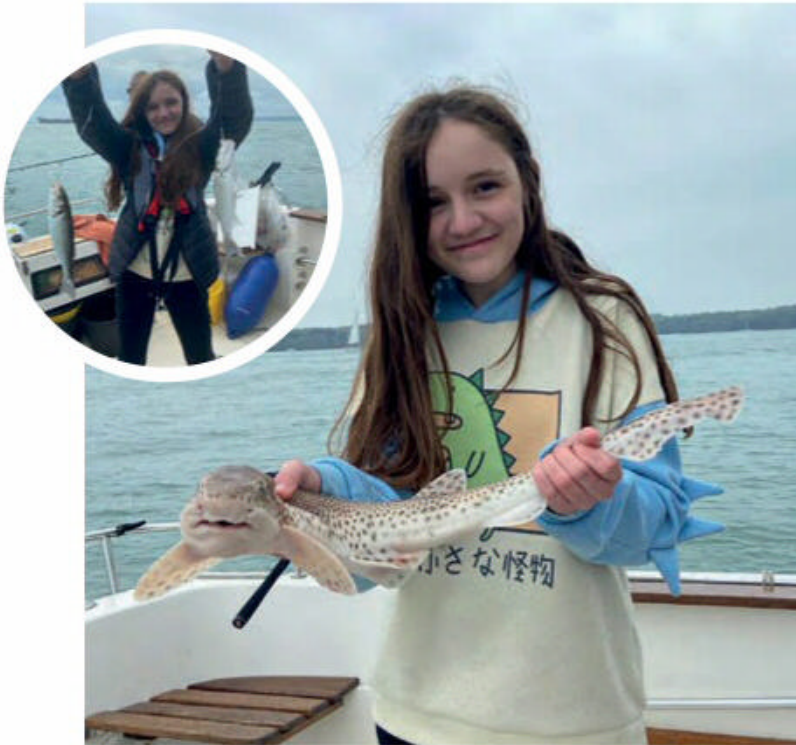
A visit to the reef is not to be undertaken lightly as the weather can change quickly so you need the wind forecast to be not more than force two. Pushing three is asking for trouble so taking a risk is not an option. The nearest point of land, which is south east Cornwall's Rame Head, is nine miles to the centre of the reef. It's 8.5 miles to the Gully and the North East Rock and 12 to the South Reef. The total distance from Plymouth Barbican is 14 miles and 16 from Looe. ■



# YOUNG RODS

Sea Angler's celebration of the great angling achievements of its many younger readers

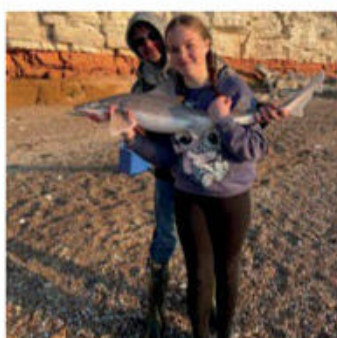
In association with



▲ **Aimee Lock** on her first fishing trip out on her grandad's boat, Dream On. She caught 10 bass, the best one going to 3lb, and a dogfish!

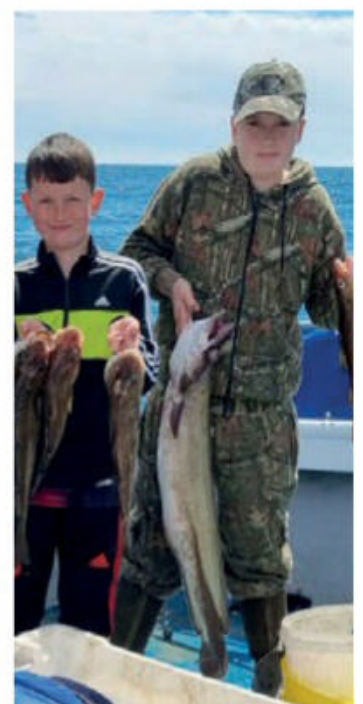


▲ **Harry Dewe**, age four, caught a 3lb 11oz wrasse from Creux Harbour in Sark on ragworm dug that morning



◀ Thirteen-year-old **Trinity Halls** caught this smoothhound while fishing at old Hunstanton on June 2nd.

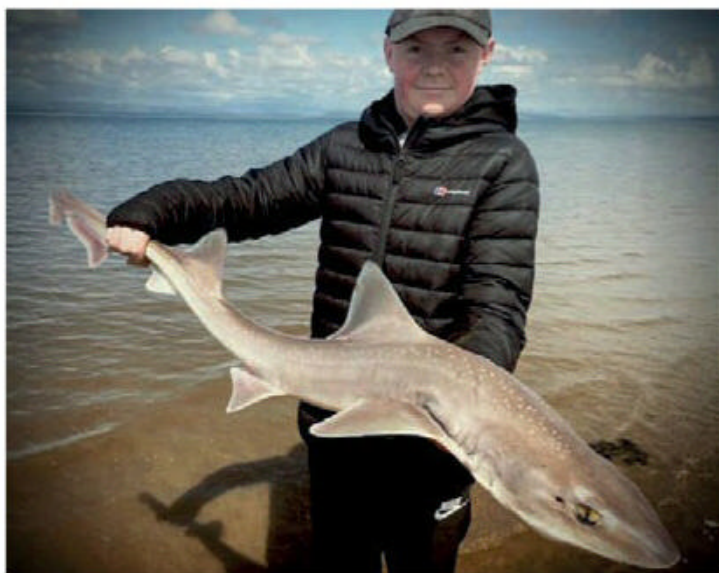
▼ **Kian Nicholson**, 14, from Clitheroe, caught this smoothhound using crab at Halfmoon Bay, Lancashire.



▲ Young brothers **Ben and Jack Iley** with their dad out fishing on the Sapphire charter boat from Sunderland catching codling, pouting, pollock and ling. Ben's best was a 3lb pollock and Jack caught the biggest fish of the day, a 13lb Ling.



▲ **Frankie Gibbs**, aged four, started to fish during lockdown and finally caught his first ever fish on squid at Deal Pier using his own rod.

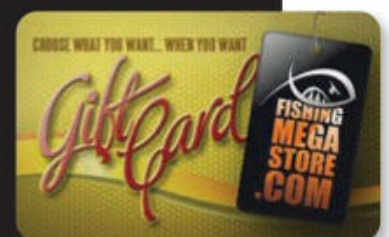


▲ **Jamie Binnie** from Filey, North Yorkshire, caught this smoothhound at Alborough beach with his dad.



▲ **Max Browne** caught this 2lb 7oz bass from Felixstowe on a clipped down Pennell rig.

## £25 TACKLE VOUCHER WINNERS



Fishingmegastore.com awards a £25 voucher prize to each of two winners - the youngster with the best shore fish and another with the top boat catch. The winners can use the voucher to select tackle from **Fishingmegastore.com** which is based in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

■ Send your Young Rods entries by email to [sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk](mailto:sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk)





# SCOTTISH SKATE SAFARI

Mike Thrussell and mates boat 18 skate for a total weight of over 2000lb on a lads' holiday to Scotland

**I**n these cash-strapped times getting a few days away fishing with mates has become that little bit more difficult for most of us. But if you fancy a short break with big fish over 100lb, and potentially lots of them, then the short hop north over the Scottish border for a common skate safari is a quick and affordable option.

With just this in mind, father and son Sandy and Adam Riach, along with fishing buddy Keith Kinnear, headed south from Inverness, while Mike Jr and I left Anglesey, picking up Tom Wain from Sandbach on the way. We met up as a group in Oban on a Wednesday night with two days ahead of us targeting common skate with skipper Leigh Taylor aboard the Laura Dawn 11. The boat, an Offshore 105, is still owned by Ronnie Campbell, a skipper I've fished with a couple of times previously. Even the weather was playing ball with a forecast for light to moderate, occasionally fresh, east to northeast winds, and sunny.

Sandy, Keith and Tom were all skate virgins, so the rest of us designated the first three fish to them then we'd all take it in turn from there on in. There was a fresh wind blowing down the loch and the boat soon settled on the anchor. Baits were dispatched over the side, rods positioned in the rod holders and the tips nicely bent to the weight of the leads and baits. ▶

Tom Wain and his skate





I wanted to target a black mouthed dogfish for my species list, so initially set up with those in mind. Things didn't quite work as I planned though, but we'll come back to this later.

It took less than five minutes for the first skate to show on the rod tips with Sandy, Keith and Tom all quickly hooked up to something big, heavy and stubborn some 475ft or more below the boat. Battling skate is a physical war of attrition. You need to keep the rod bent and fully pressurising the fish all the time with no let up. The first 10 to 15-minutes is vital as the common will suction itself to the seabed and it's basically a stalemate. It's up to you to work the fish hard enough to get it to move. You're wearing a harness attached to the reel lugs and a butt pad but it's important to bend at the knees, lean slightly backwards and let the harness and your back and shoulders take the strain to keep the rod bent into the fish to achieve this. This stance applies maximum pressure on the fish but puts minimal pressure on yourself. Once the skate moves, start pumping the fish up with short upward lifts of the rod and then wind in a few inches of line as you drop the rod tip back down ready for the next upward pump. This incremental retrieval of line, which must be smooth, is the best way to beat big skate, in fact any large fish you hook. Always be prepared to let a fish dive back down. Some do, some don't, but they will kite in the tide using their giant wings to increase tidal pressure on their body which dramatically increases rod pressure.

After some major facial gurning, grunts, groans and grimaces our three virgins all successfully popped their skate cherries. Tom summed it up best when he said to me, "It hurts like hell during the fight, but what a feeling when that incredible creature breaks surface!" The first three fish weighed 101lb, 97lb and 138lb. Quickly followed up with fish of 179lb and 66lb as individual turns on the rods came around. Mike Jr had been carrying an arm injury for some time but elected to give a skate a go, but alas it was too much for his injury and after a few minutes he had to pass the fish over to Sandy who did a sterling job on what was to prove a very big fish of 199lb.

## TIME OUT

What was I doing when all this mayhem was kicking off? Well, I was fishing for black mouthed dogfish using a simple 2-hook rig with 20lb fluorocarbon hook lengths and size 2 Kamasan B940 Aberdeen hooks. The hook armed with 2 inches of luminous pink tubing slid on it just to highlight the bait at depth. I'd baited with a small strip of mackerel much as you would for whiting or flounder. On my first drop down, I felt the lead hit bottom and within 30-seconds felt a shudder on the line. The rod top knocked a couple of times and I lifted into the fish. I was using my own MTI15lb class rod and the tip just curved over and stayed there. The penny dropped instantly, and I knew I'd hooked a skate. The dilemma is to play the fish as hard as you can anticipating that the fight won't last too long before something breaks, or back the drag off and fight the fish with your

Another fish is brought carefully to the side of the boat



A large male common skate



Mike Jr caught





**Mike with a 119lb skate landed on a size 2 hook**



**Keith Kinnear and a small skate**

thumb adding any gentle extra pressure you need to give the ridiculously light connection and a faint chance of success. I chose the latter. I've been in this position with big fish hooked on very light gear before and you must make a mental decision that if you get lucky it might be a very long fight and it's going to hurt. It's a very delicate process!

I settled into a body position that allowed me to keep the rod bent as much as I could to pressure the fish but at the same time keep my back straight to avoid the worst of the physical pain the relentless rod pressure I knew would cause. I was fishing a PENN Fathom 15 LD reel, a relatively compact reel that obviously has no reel lugs so the only comfort I had was a butt pad. Nothing happened for maybe 45-minutes then I felt the fish move a little. Immediately I started trying to pump the fish just lifting the rod tip a few inches each time, then having to watch any gained line disappear again as the fish just eased down deeper. This went on for another half hour. All the time I was waiting for the rod tip to spring back straight as the hook or hook length gave out.

It took me nearly two hours and I felt I'd got it to about half depth, still a good 200ft down. I'd got the drag set very light and was using my thumb resting lightly on the spool just to give myself gentle lifting power with the option of lifting my thumb off instantly to let the fish take line freely if it crashed down. I was up against the tide too, which was pressurising the fish and increasing the rod and line pressure all the time as it picked up speed. I'd lost track of time myself and even what was going on around me as I was fully focused. I'd been checking the line profile on my reel and realised that the fish might not be too far down now. I was still in denial but was starting to feel more confident the hook and hook length might just hold, yet at the same time waiting for something to give. I think it was Adam that shouted, "I can see it, I can see it!" A few seconds later I saw it too but knew this was the most critical time as I very slowly inched the fish across the surface towards the welcoming hands of skipper Leigh.

Somehow, Lady Luck was with us, and the skate was grabbed by Leigh and gently slid on deck to be measured and checked for any electronic tag. It was a male skate measured out to weight 119lb. Checking the hook it had opened out slightly and the fluorocarbon hook length was badly abraded but somehow everything had held. The fight lasted two hours and 40 minutes. Writing this up a week later my left forearm is still feeling it. I saved the hook and I've sellotaped it into my fishing diary below the written record of this trip. I think the hook deserves it!

We finished the day with another six fish between 84lb and 163lb to make 13 for the day recording nine male fish and four female fish. Some first day!

## DAY TWO

The next day dawned with much the same weather, though the wind was a little stronger. Leigh chose a different mark with a better chance of black mouthed dogs for those of us who wanted to catch one but also with a good chance of skate. As it happened, the dogs weren't playing ball and it was spurdog after spurdog. There was one skate bite missed, but that was it for this mark.

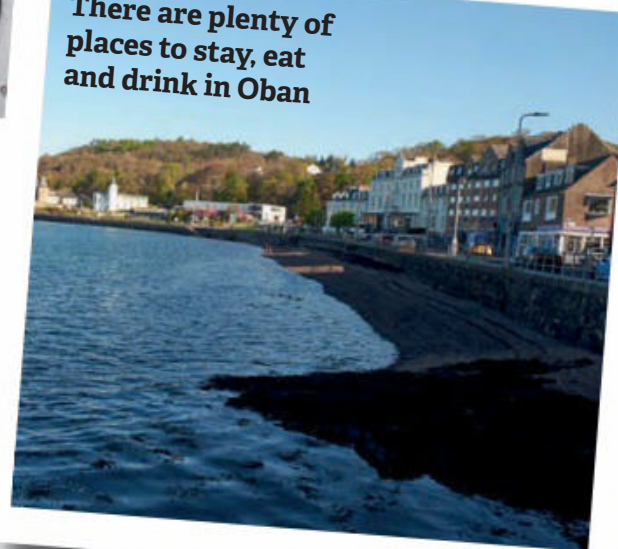
With an advantageous change in the tide, we headed back up the loch and reset the anchor. It took around 20-minutes for the first skate to show. The first weighed 119lb. Sandy then hooked up on a fish and it seemed to take ages for it to move. It was a long fight well over an hour and 30-minutes with the fish having rolled a wing over the line and it was coming in sideways making it much more difficult but with a successful outcome. Keith set the hook in a fish that flatly refused to move for about 40-minutes then came grudgingly. We put the skate's new level of doggedness down to a slight change in wind direction and maybe a shift in the barometric pressure as the fish were more lethargic than the previous day. We all added extra fish to our total making it five for the afternoon with two more fish lost to hook pulls. ►



Father and son Adam and Sandy Riach with a common skate



There are plenty of places to stay, eat and drink in Oban



## TACKLE

Although I took my own personal gear up, the boat is fully equipped with a mix of 50lb class PENN rods and reels and we all elected to use the boats tackle in the end, so there's nothing to organise on the tackle front, it's all done for you. Harnesses and but pads are also provided.

Leigh uses an interesting boom system on his heavy 250lb mono leaders that sees the line run through a length of plastic conduit stopped by a strong split ring that takes the hook trace. A connector link swivel is taped to the conduit boom, and this takes the lead weight. Should the main line break, the boom and lead slide off leaving the skate with only the hook in place. I remember this boom type system when fishing with Ronnie previously and it works a treat!

## BAITS

Skate are not fussy eaters and will take most things they find on the seabed including mackerel, chunks of spurdog, half a dogfish, large whole squid, and a mix of two or three of all those. As we've seen they'll take small baits, but bigger baits put much more smell on the seabed, and this can make a difference on those days when the fish are not so prevalent.

## CONSERVATION

I first fished Oban around 30 years ago. The skate were maybe just as big then, but their numbers were not as good. I last fished it about

10 years back and noticed then that their numbers had increased substantially. This time it's obvious that careful and considerate angling practice has seen their numbers hugely escalate due to the tag and release policy. What's also evident is that the numbers of smaller skate from juveniles just into double figures and especially fish in the 20 to 45lb bracket indicates a healthy production line of young fish coming through to further swell the adult ranks.

It was also noted that four of the skate we caught were new previously untagged fish, a possible indication that some skate are coming in from other areas and again an indicator that numbers are rapidly rising. They went back with electronic tags in them, so they too are now part of the general monitoring system.

With 18 skate for a combined weight of 2150lb, our three newcomers to skate fishing all gaining their wings, old hands renewing their acquaintance with this unique species, the food, the laughs and the banter, and having a great skipper in Leigh, it was a cracking couple of days away and we'll be doing it again next year.

## DOING IT YOURSELF

Our group of six had a terrific time. There's plenty of good places to eat in Oban and inevitably plenty of places to sample a pint or two, as we inevitably did come the evenings. There's a wide variety of accommodation and we stayed in a guest house B&B which had sea views straight onto the promenade in Oban. ■

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### CHARTER BOATS

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We stayed at Ayres Guest House part of Corran House and adjacent to Markie Dans Bar. There is a self-catering kitchen on the ground floor which we used for breakfast and late-night tea and coffee. Corran House, Victoria Crescent, Corran Esplanade, Oban, Argyll PA34 5PN. Tel: 01631 566040 E-mail: enquiries@corranhouseoban.co.uk Website: <https://corranhouseoban.co.uk/ayres-guest-house/>



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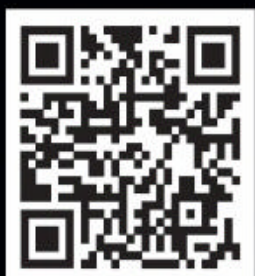
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# THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN!

**PART  
TWO**

In the second part of an extract from Dave Lewis' new book, *Destination Angler III*, Dave reminisces about a 30th anniversary trip fishing the waters of County Mayo with his heroes: Clive Gammon, Kevin Linnane and Des Brennan



**D**uring the course of our week at Ballydavid, the tremendous boat fishing they had experienced in Belmullet on that exploratory trip back in 1966 came up often in conversation. It wasn't long before someone, I think it was Des (Brennan), remarked that the following year, 1996, would be the 30th anniversary of that first historic trip. "We should arrange a reunion, and you should join us Dave, the fishing there really is excellent," Des had remarked; I really was living the dream.

The following year our arrival in Co Mayo coincided with hot, calm and sunny weather, more or less the exact opposite of what the trio had encountered all of those years ago. Sitting in the bar of the Western Strands Hotel, Belmullet SACs present HQ, that first night it was not long before once again the old stories of the first trip began to flow as freely as the stout.

The first four days of that trip had been spent holed up in a local bar due to bad weather, shooting pool and generally kicking their heels

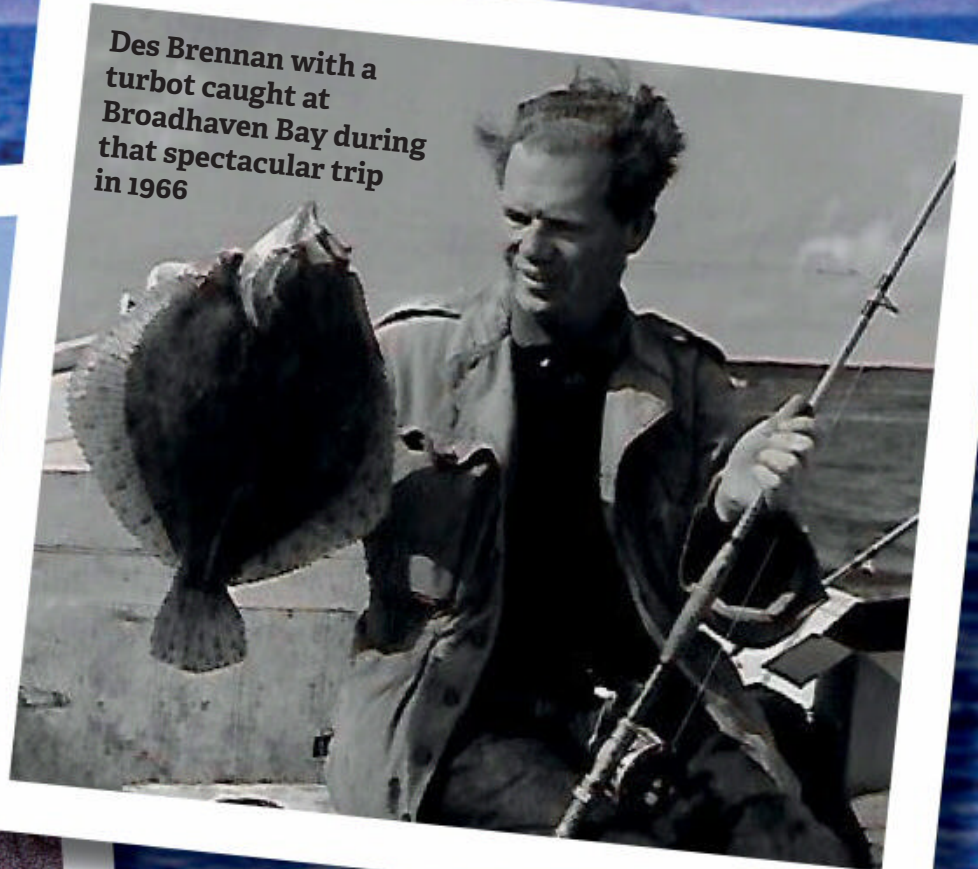
until finally they could stand it no longer. "We just had to get afloat," recalled Des. "So we got a map of the area and noted that Broad Haven Bay was about the only area which offered enough protection to give us any chance of fishing in safety. Asking around we managed to locate an old 12ft open wooden clinker boat, and the following day we fished the bay, not really expecting to catch much more than a few doggies and ray. Well, to cut a long story short, that first afternoon we caught an estimated quarter of a ton of fish, which included tope, turbot, several species of ray, gurnard, pollack, 15 species in all!"

They had fished Broad Haven Bay until eventually the weather improved sufficiently to allow the party to try the open Atlantic, which is where Kevin took up the story: "Fishing with Tommy Walsh aboard the St Christopher, we tackled the extensive system of reefs off Erris Head, Achill island and the now legendary Black Rock, an isolated pinnacle of rock with a lighthouse perched purposefully on top several miles offshore. The fishing we found there was ►

30 years on, and Kevin Linnane was still catching fish like this turbot



Des Brennan with a turbot caught at Broadhaven Bay during that spectacular trip in 1966





unbelievable," Kevin had enthused adding, "It was impossible to use six feathers at a time, a drop down with a three hook rig might typically produce two 20lb plus cod and a 5lb red bream. There were enormous quantities of heavyweight pollack, coalfish, ling, spurdog and other species. After one especially productive session my whole body seized up, and I had to be helped into the car for the long drive back to Dublin!"

Another round of perfectly poured drinks were placed in front of us, and the conversation turned to reminiscing about some of the great characters of the area. "Remember the Murphy brothers," Clive had asked? "There were three of them, they used to run the charter boat St Patrick out of Blacksod pier. She was a 28 footer with a small midships cabin. One of the brothers was the captain, and never ventured out of the wheelhouse. One of the others was the ship's engineer who used to oversee all things mechanical, to the total exclusion of everything else. And the other poor sod, well he had to do everything else single handed," Clive roared!

"Remember the day Tommy couldn't take us?" continued Des. "He sent one of his mates as skipper for the day, and it very quickly became apparent that the lad did not know a great deal about boats and fishing. During the course of the day one of us caught a lively tope, which proceeded to thrash and writhe about the deck. He was terrified and to our horror he grabbed the boat's killick, a large rock used as an anchor, and threw it at the tope. Luckily he hit the fish square on the head, else the rock would certainly have holed and sunk the boat."

By 1996 several well equipped angling boats were operating out of both Ballyglass and Blacksod, a vast improvement on the 'good old days' when Des always carried his own lifejacket, compass, anchor and rope. On day one of our reunion trip we fished out of Ballyglass aboard the 'Arranmore,' owned and skippered by Paraic Sheerin. The weather was ideal and our first stop was off Ballyglass lighthouse, at the entrance to Broad Haven Bay, for mackerel. In no time at all the first strings of wriggling silver and green fish were being swung aboard, and drumming frantically in the fish boxes. Next stop was Erris Head and the surrounding reefs and open ground marks, where during the course of the day we boated a selection of some 14 different species.

**Clive with a string on mackerel, caught near the "homa the mackerel" during our trip in 1996**

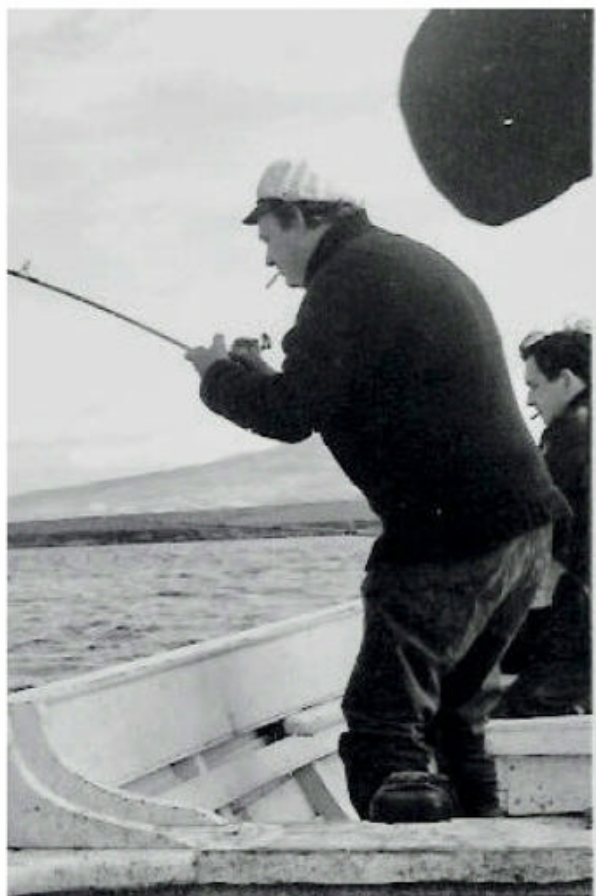




**Des with  
a decent  
pollack**



**Des Brennan on the original 1966 trip**



**It was Clive's turn next. A cigarette hanging out of the mouth was almost obligatory when sea angling in the 1960s!**

As we approached a secluded little bay halfway along the headland Kevin announced, "We're going to fish the homa!" Walking straight into his trap I asked what 'the homa' was to which all three sang out in unison: "The homa the mackerel." It appears that Tommy Walsh had several such marks the 'homa the mackerel,' 'the homa the pollack and so on. And, sure enough, 'the homa the mackerel' had one of the largest shoals of surface feeding mackerel I had seen in recent years!

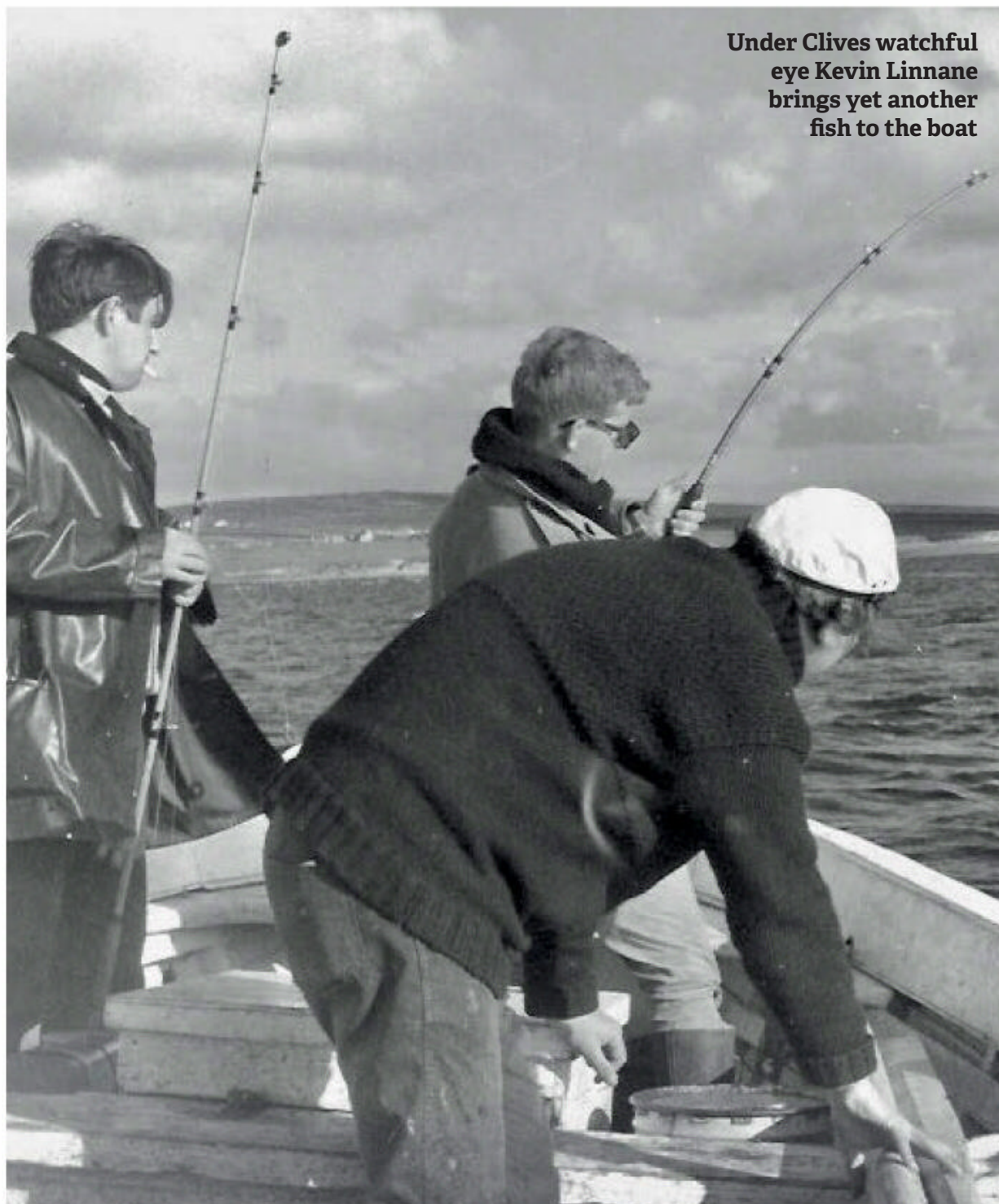
Day two, we fished out of Blacksod aboard the 'Fionulla' skippered by Michael Walker, who took us off both Achill Head and the famous Black Rock, where once again we caught a steady succession of many different species.

Day three we drove south to Blacksod, for a day aboard the 'Girl Emer' skippered by Vincent Sweeney. At the time Vincent was one of the areas most experienced charter skippers, a man whose roots went back to the very beginning of sea angling at Belmullet. Vincent fished along with his father with Clive, Des and Kevin in the early days. This time we wanted to fish the sheltered bays and inlets around Blacksod for ray and flatfish, and to cut a long story short we boated an impressive haul of 40 plus thornback ray, plus turbot, gurnard, cod and a lot more.

For our last day fishing we returned to Ballyglass for another day aboard the 'Arranmore.' During our visit the tides had gradually built and Paraic was confident of some great fishing. He took us to a favourite flatfish mark near Erris Head where we enjoyed tremendous sport, catching plenty of sizeable turbot, brill, ray and gurnard, the sort of day fishing for quality fish that once, several decades previous, had been excepted as the norm.

When finally our week came to an end I felt honoured at having been given the opportunity to take part in such a unique and historic trip. My friendship with all three of these great pioneering anglers, Clive Gammon, Des Brennan and Kevin Linnane, continued for several years until sadly, inevitably, each made their way to the great surf beach in the sky.

So far as Irish boat angling is concerned Erris Head, Achill Head and Blackrock are now legendary, and Gammon, Brennan and Linnane are widely regarded as pioneers of a sport which in their day was in its infancy. I think Father Vincent Moore were he still alive would be very pleased with the way his vision had developed. Certainly, visiting anglers and the local community are indebted to his foresight, and many rightly claim he is undoubtedly the father of sea angling in Belmullet. ■



**Under Clives watchful  
eye Kevin Linnane  
brings yet another  
fish to the boat**



# A PLAICE CHASE

Plump summer plaice put up a good scrap and make a tasty meal. Dave Lewis explains how to bag these spotty flatties from a boat

The bony ridge  
helps identify  
plaice from  
flounders



Clean sand and  
mussel beds  
will hold plaice



**W**ith their bright orange spots plaice are one of our most attractive and easily recognisable species. Occasionally flounder also display reddish spots and are misidentified as being plaice, but flounder lack the distinct bony ridge behind the eyes which are a prominent feature of plaice. Plaice are widespread around the British Isles with their distribution extending in a northerly direction to above the Arctic Circle and the most northerly of the Norwegian fjords, where increasingly anglers are targeting specimen plaice that often exceed 4-5lb.

Typical marks where plaice are caught include patches of clean sand or shingle and shell grit, ideally when these are located in the near vicinity of mussel beds. Sand banks are another favourite location, especially when they are swept by strong tides. Unlike flounder and some other commonly caught species of flatfish, plaice are rarely found in coloured water, or in areas where freshwater rivers flowing into the sea have reduced the salinity.

With an average size of between 1-4lb here in the UK, light tackle is ideal for plaice. Traditionally anglers use 12lb class outfits for flatfish, and often a medium spinning rod will be ideal. If fishing in deeper water and strong tides, it may be necessary to use 20lb or even 30lb tackle. Today most boat anglers use braid, the sensitivity of modern braided lines allowing the angler to clearly feel even the most delicate bites, but a few old school boat anglers still prefer to use monofilament.

# SAKUMA

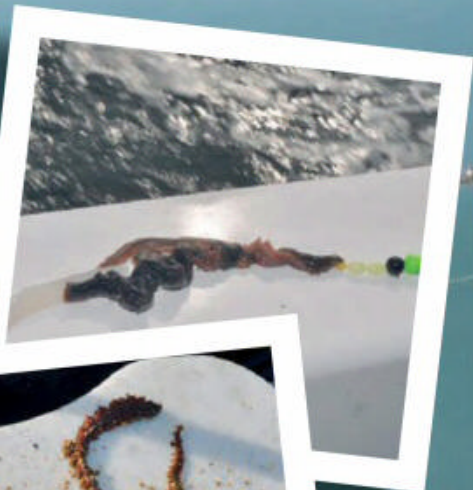
**NEW HOOK PATTERNS FOR 2022**



The most effective plaice rig is a simple running leger. My favourite rig consists of a tubi-type boom sliding on the monofilament leader, if using braid, with a small high-quality swivel to connect the hook length. I like to use a hook length about 6ft in length, cut from a good quality clear monofilament line of around 15-20lb. The hook length terminates in a size 1-1/0 long shank Aberdeen-style hook; I find stainless steel Sakuma 430s are perfect.

When plaice fishing various attractors are used on the end of the hook length. A string of up to a dozen coloured beads are popular, for many years I have used yellow or lime green/chartreuse coloured. In recent years alternating black and green beads have become popular, especially when fishing in the vicinity of mussel beds. A few anglers still use spoons such as the classic ABU Rauto, with others preferring smaller spoons such as those used on Mepp's type spinners. Certainly visual attractors are very effective and therefore important when fishing for plaice. ▶

▶ Plaice react to coloured beads above the hook  
▼ Worm, squid and fish baits can all work



Plaice like a moving bait and drifting works best



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Light tackle  
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## The famous Skerries off Dartmouth in South Devon along with The Shambles off Weymouth in Dorset are two of the best known and productive plaice marks in the UK

On days when the drift is fast adding a little weight to the attractor beads at the end of the hook length can make a huge difference. Either a small drilled bullet or barrel lead, or even a large split shot or two is enough. The purpose of this is to keep the bait nailed hard on the bottom, which is where the plaice feed. With this important factor in mind old fashioned circular studded watch lead, which hugs the bottom beautifully, are still used by many plaice anglers today. If these are not available then use a flat sided rather than bomb shaped leads, which tend to roll rather than drag and subsequently cause tangles.

Plaice can be caught on pretty much any bait. In Ireland, for example, anglers very successfully use little more than long thin cuts of fresh mackerel, but this bait is seldom used

for plaice in the UK. Most plaice specialists here use cocktail baits consisting of three, four or more different components, with favourite ingredients including squid, blow or black lugworm, ragworm, peeler crab, a long fillet cut from a sandeel or launce and any type of shellfish, especially mussel and razorfish.

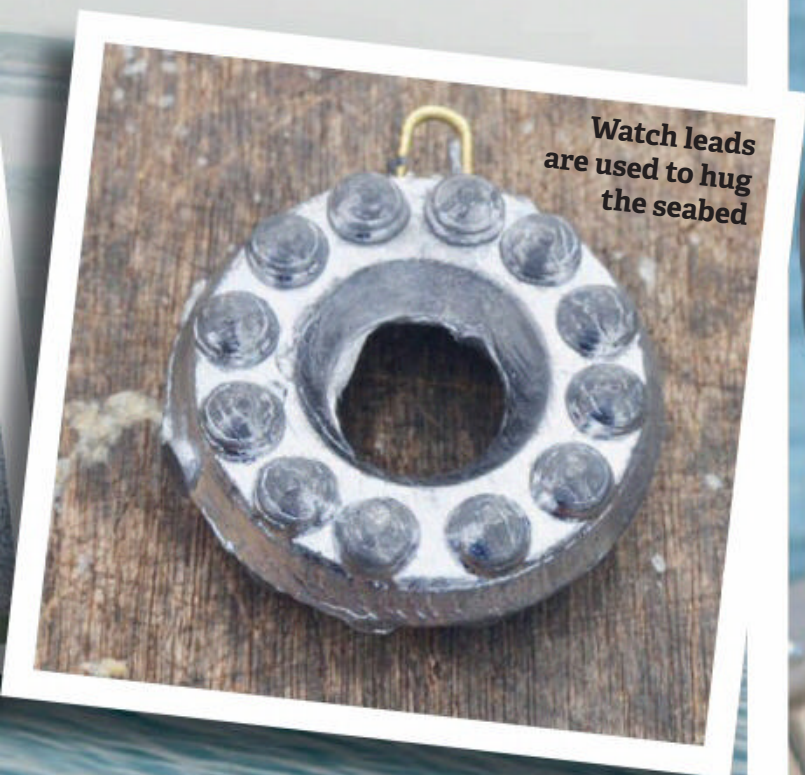
Plaice baits are usually rigged to be 'tadpole' shaped, that is they feature a bulbous body with a long flowing tail, usually a strip of white squid meat. It is important to make sure that the point of the hook remains exposed by securing the bait with fine elastic, to ensure that it cannot become masked by the bait.

Fishing on the drift is the standard technique for plaice. The boat is positioned uptide of the ground to be covered and as soon as the boat is stopped, the anglers slowly allow their baited

rigs to drop down to the bottom. Dropping baited rigs too quickly will invariably result in a tangle. When the lead is felt tapping the bottom allow several yards of line to spill off the spool as the boat drifts leaving the bait stationary on the seabed. Then, after perhaps 30 seconds, check the flow of line from the spool with your thumb, but leave the reel in free spool. Now the bait will start to drag across the seabed.

When a bite is detected, usually a series of hard rattles on the rod tip, immediately takes your thumb off the spool and once again allow line to flow unchecked off the spool, thus once again leaving the bait stationary on the bottom. This is to stop the bait getting dragged away from an inquisitive fish. Leave the bait stationary for about a minute, before





Watch leads are used to hug the seabed



### The average stamp of fish for many anglers

once again checking the flow of line from the reel. Hopefully you will now feel the satisfying weight of the fish come onto the rod, at which point you should re-engage the reel and slowly play your fish to the waiting landing net. If you do not immediately detect the weight of a fish, once again free spooling line to the fish to give it some more time to eat the bait can work.

The current British record for plaice is held with a fish that weighed 10lb 3oz 8 dr, caught at Longa Sound in Scotland in 1974, though much bigger fish have been caught commercially in the UK. As with so many other species Norway is probably the best destination for very big plaice, with the Norwegian record held by a huge fish of 5.7kg, just over 12lb 8oz.

### WHERE & WHEN

The famous Skerries off Dartmouth in South Devon along with The Shambles off Weymouth in Dorset are two of the best known and productive plaice marks in the UK. Many good plaice are caught off the Sussex coast, as well as the northern sector of the Irish Sea off the coast of Cumbria.

Traditionally most anglers start to focus on catching plaice in the spring, the time when following spawning offshore in deeper water fish move inshore to recover and consequently feed ravenously. Early season plaice are generally thin and make poor eating, so these are best returned. Once inshore the fish quickly recover condition, and some of the best fishing for the species is found throughout the summer months, and best of all the autumn when the fish are in the absolute peak of condition. ■



A baited plaice rig with beads and a spoon





# TERRIFIC TENERIFE

Heading to the popular Canary Island of Tenerife? Expect top tuna action and plenty of sunshine, as John Figgins knows well

**I** have always had a fascination for big fish, having caught marlin to 500lb and tuna to 700lb, nothing peaks my fishing passion as much as a hard fighting tuna.

Having enjoyed a couple of UK trips this year targeting bluefin tuna, tagging and releasing, I was keen to try and get some more arm-aching action on stand up before the year came to an end. The Irish trips to catch bluefin were excellent and yielded a couple of nice tuna; however, it is a different type of fishing being chair-based fights, plus at times you are battling the wild Atlantic conditions almost as much as the fish! I was craving some warm sun on my back and a mental escape from all the trials and tribulations of 2020.

My trip to Tenerife was hastily thrown together following the latest Government travel corridor announcements, allowing the Canary Island to be travelled to without having to isolate on return to the UK.

I had been following various skippers on the Island of Tenerife over the past 12 months, monitoring success as well as trip reviews and I plumped for the 'Crested Wave' based in Las Americas in the south of the Island. The boat has been operating here for well over 20 years and is now run by dad, Mick, and son, Jack. The tourist trade in Tenerife has been devastated and obviously this has a knock on for all the tourist-based activities, such as fishing. The team have continued fishing but had to cut their rates and run trips for locals just to scrape by until better times return.

I have never stayed in Las Americas before and only needed a place to crash that was safe, secure and close to the boat. Mike put me in touch with a connection who rents apartments and for £50 a night I ended up with a lovely clean apartment in a complex with a warm pool and security all around.

Mick and Jack were awesome from the get-go. Not only the fishing but also the hospitality. Fresh food and rolls, fruit, fizzy drinks, beer and water, and snacks all included.

I knew the big eye tuna had arrived and that was my primary reason to come over whilst the bite was hot. It didn't disappoint as from







three days fishing my tally was three big eye up to over 100kg (230lb), three albacore to around 25-35kg, one yellowfin that was also around 100kg, one blue shark about 70kg, and a 5kg skipjack caught for fun on a spinning rod using the kite method while bait fishing. Many of these were released to fight another day, depending on what was in season and allowed to be landed.

First day and off we steamed to the tuna hot spot. Cool drinks in hand it wasn't long before the fresh baguettes provided by Mick's wife were being devoured by my boat mates for the day. "Careful boys, you're out for a long day, make it last", was the cry from the captain. Too late, but not to worry, there were plenty other snacks. It reminded me of the classic school trip where the lunch boxes are whipped out as soon as the coach door shuts!

The guys do troll to the tuna grounds for about half hour -- you may as well when you are steaming out -- but then the method is very methodical and well thought out. Although we were fishing close into the shoreline, we were still in 300m of water. Chum lines were created by using sliced up mackerel, and live and dead baits set at various heights. We did not jump from spot to spot. The guys hold the baitfish and tuna around the boat and if we did need to reposition slightly, we chummed along on our drift to keep the fish holding to our boat. It's a large boat so fish like its shelter. Oh and the live and dead bait, tons of it, is all sorted for you before you set off fishing. We caught a few bigger live mackerel but all the chum and smaller live baits these guys use they get from their local contacts so you don't waste hours bait fishing. Plus, you can never get that much on feathers; it would take hours. We had almost unlimited so plenty for keeping the tuna under the boat. The one day we did make a swift stop just outside the harbour to get some decent sized mackerel hook baits, nice fresh lively ones for the big tuna to get excited about, we found a great spot quickly, heaving strings of six at a time over the side. The fish



finder picked up some bigger fish on the bottom - probably amberjack we are told, as a mackerel whizzed past my nose skimming the left nostril and plopping into the live bait tank behind me. A couple live baits are put down for them in case, but no luck this time. Nothing ventured, nothing gained though, and great the guys are still alert despite the pandemonium of mackerel flying all over the place.

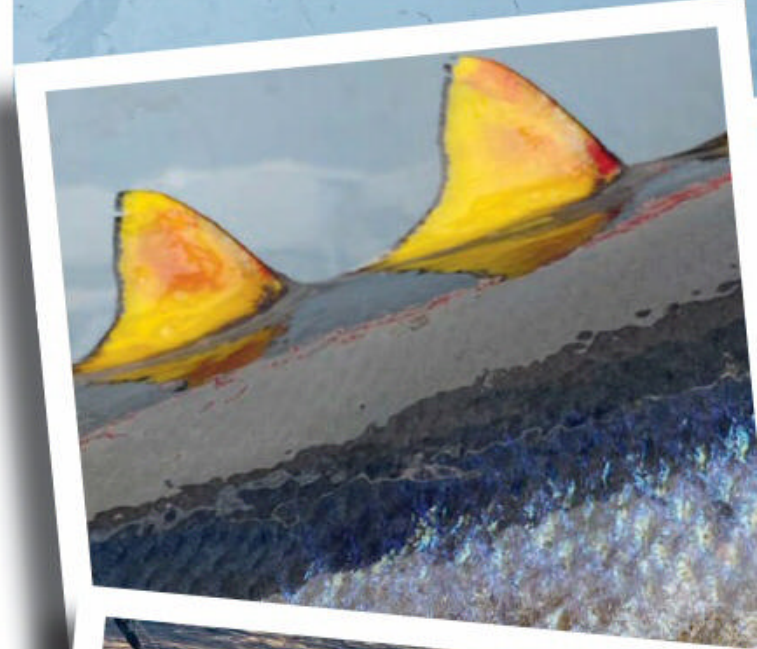
At the tuna grounds a chum trail was floating nicely down in to the crystal blue waters. After about 45 minutes we marked a tuna at about 100 metres which created a buzz about the boat and the rods were checked to make sure we had covered all the depths. This fish didn't take. It must have eaten our chum and swam on past laughing or remembering a similar scenario and exercising caution. Today we had some wind around us, so out comes the kite and on the bottom of its line a medium sized mackerel which starts flapping away nicely on the surface. The yellowfin love this form of bait presentation, says Jack, as they cannot see the line in the water; it's all in the air! Down go the baits, out goes the chum. We marked another fish at about 80 meters. Great, we're in the right area! But nothing. We wait.

"On the surface!", the cry goes out. Jack feverishly starts chumming the water around our live kite bait with smaller live mackerel to cause as much commotion as possible. Wham! A tuna smashes the live bait, water swirls and froths, Shimano reels screams. Fish on! With the reel still screaming out comes the belt and harness. On it goes around my waste and quickly I'm connected directly to a very angry yellowfin tuna. He strips off around 300 metres of line. The site of my reel looking rather empty is not filling me with much confidence. Luckily, he slows, and I can start getting a few yards at a time off him. I take it, he takes it back. Twenty minutes in and I hear a commotion at the rear of the boat. The boys have been having some fun with a couple of skipjacks on light gear and the kite is in the water again. Suddenly, a 200lb yellowfin tuna leaps clean out of the water just behind the bait. Then whack, the reel screams and fish on! Chaos ensues; two on at the same time. My boat mate belts up and starts to play the fish. Side by side we stand, fish parting in different directions, both of us starting to sweat in the mid afternoon sun. Ireland a couple of months back, dressed in oilskins and riding the Atlantic waves, seems a lifetime ago. This was going to be a long fight. Just as well I reapplied my sun cream, I think. Then disaster strikes. The line goes slack next to me. "Quick, reel in, reel in" shouts Jack. You never know with these tuna as often they swim up fast to make slack line to throw the hook. But alas, after a couple of minutes realisation dawns that the fish has departed. The clean hook comes up and there's nothing wrong with the trace or the hook. Just a lucky tuna to throw the hook and swim off to live another day. I'm still fighting my fish and very aware of

the disappointment my boat mate must be feeling. My fish is sulking, sitting on his side and making it very hard to gain any line and it's a stalemate. An hour has gone already, and my biceps are starting to burn from the lactic acid. The bottom of my back is starting to ache from the pressure. Determined to land the fish I slug a bottle of water down and crack on. "Only another 100 metres" comes the shout. The boys can see it on the fish finder. That's another hour I think, at this rate. He takes a few more runs and I take the line back, this time I can feel him tire and his head is nodding more violently as he can obviously now see the boat above him. He starts to circle the boat a bit. "Gaffs ready, gloves on, colour in the water" I cry. "All hands-on deck. He's coming up!". In goes the first gaff straight through the gill plate, blood pours from him, he's done. Instantly, cleanly and precisely gaffed the fish is brought to the boat's rear and hauled aboard. High fives all around and lines are back out and a beer is cracked open; mission accomplished. It is a 100kg plus yellowfin tuna -- over 220lb, a fight time of an hour and forty five minutes on 50lb gear. What a fight. I'm done. We try to hook up again but, alas, the day draws to a close. We head home into the dark sky, headed for the bustling lit up coastline after a very long day and just in time to grab some dinner.

On the last evening of the three days we eventually get back to port at about half past midnight, having stayed at the tuna grounds to dusk. We hooked a big tuna at 7.15pm, leading to a battle on 50lb gear that was five minutes short of four hours! . These tuna possess unbelievable power and determination. Once boated the tuna was filleted and donated to local charities and food banks. We released some fish as well; these guys respect their limits and only take what they can use and are allowed to harvest. On the second evening we returned about 11:00 having got a 90kg big eye landed. We then lost a bigger fish after two and a half hours, possibly a bluefin tuna -- the hook just came loose and the fish was gone. We would have had to release it anyway if it was a bluefin due to the regulations. Most of my fish were on 50lb stand up gear, although one big eye was on 80lb gear. The 50lb stand up is hard work; be prepared for a couple hours of fight time. The 80lb gear cuts the fight in half as you can apply much more force on the fish. Listen to the guys, they will lead you but also ask what you want to do. I really liked that engagement as you felt part of the team and decision-making process. We had a couple of hands on the boat too that were helpful chumming and helping with the fish. You could do as little or as much as you want to.

On the flight home thoughts already started drifting to the next adventure. I had caught yellowfin, albacore, skipjack and big eye tuna with these guys on the trip. I've caught bluefin in Ireland this year too. The next mission must be bluefin on the Crested Wave in Tenerife. To be continued... ■







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# BLACKFIN TUNA

Target this small but powerful tuna on light tackle for great sport, particularly around many of the popular Caribbean holiday destinations for UK holidaymakers





**T**he blackfin tuna, *thunnus atlanticus*, are occasionally referred to as the Bermuda tuna, blackfinned albacore, or deep bodied tunny. It is the smallest tuna species in the genus *Thunnus*. Blackfin tuna are considered tropical, warm water fish and have a relatively small distribution throughout the eastern coast of North and South America where they are found from Massachusetts to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. Blackfin are especially prolific and thus targeted by sport fishermen throughout the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. The current IGFA All-Tackle record for blackfin tuna is held with a fish that weighed 49lb 6oz, caught off Marathon, Florida in 2006.

Given an average size of between 8-20lb, blackfin are the perfect target for the light tackle enthusiast using a light to medium weight spinning outfit, or trolling with light boat rods. Such tackle gives these chunky, solidly built fish the opportunity to demonstrate just how powerful, relative to their size, they are.



**Averaging 8-20lb light tackle is ideal**



**Trolling lures can be most effective**

Sadly a lot of the blackfin that anglers do catch are hooked as a bycatch, when fishing for other species of tuna or billfish using heavier tackle.

As when targeting any pelagic species location is the key to success when fishing for blackfin tuna, and faced with the vastness of the oceanic environment trolling is invariably the best technique to cover ground until fish are located. Shoals of fish are often located in the deeper water outside of reefs, or over prominent banks. As with many other species shoals of feeding blackfin tuna can often be spotted a great distance off, by locating flocks of birds grabbing baitfish pushed to the surface. When this is the case you will have the perfect opportunity to pick up a spinning or even fly rod, and experience some truly exceptional bluewater sport fishing!

Blackfin can be caught on any of the many trolling lures fishermen use in the area where they are caught, but given the fishes relatively small average size, often it is the smaller lures that are the most effective. Various coloured jet heads are very effective, as are diving lures such as the tried and tested Rapala CD14. Casting small metal jigs into the vicinity of shoaling fish can be extremely effective. In many of the most productive areas where blackfin tuna are caught, such as off the Florida Keys, anglers target sailfish using ballyhoo rigged on circle hooks, which also are very effective for blackfin.

Fishing for blackfin is widely available at many of the most popular tourist destinations visited by British anglers on family holidays throughout the Caribbean. Charter a boat from any of the Windward Islands such as Antigua, St Lucia, Barbados, Tobago or Grenada and you'll likely see a blackfin or two caught, especially as most of this boats fish relatively close to shore where often these fish are found. Elsewhere in the Caribbean I have caught blackfin tuna in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the Cayman Islands and at several other destinations. They are found throughout Florida where they are a widely targeted and popular species with many sport fishermen, as in addition to providing great sport they make wonderful eating! ■

**Dave Lewis's recently published book, *Destination Angler 3*, features 26 beautifully illustrated chapters, covering fishing for a wide range of bucket list species at destinations around the world. Cost is £35 plus £4.99 p&p to a UK address. Contact: david.lewis21@hotmail.com**



# SEA SCHOOL

Our experts solve your fishing problems

## Q & A

### SHORE ANGLING

WINNING QUESTION

#### ASK THE EXPERTS

When sending your question, please remember to include your name and address



**JAMES MADSEN**

Bristol Channel angler James Madsen is here to solve all your shore angling problems.



**DAVE LEWIS**

Based in Newport, South Wales, our contributing editor Dave answers boat fishing questions.



**JOHN HOLDEN**

A Sea Angler contributor for over four decades specialising in casting and rod building.



**HENRY GILBEY**

Angler, blogger and photo-journalist Henry, based in Cornwall, is our lure expert.



**BEN BASSETT**

The Plymouth angler and blogger will provide answers on the sport of light rock fishing (LRF), the go-anywhere tactic.

#### HOW TO ASK A US QUESTION

■ Email: [sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk](mailto:sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk)  
or online: [www.facebook.com/seaanglermag](http://www.facebook.com/seaanglermag)

By asking a question you are giving us permission to use your name and where you live in all versions and platforms of this magazine.

**Q** Lately I've been losing lots of hooks to spider crabs when fishing my local beach. It's a real pain because I'm getting through loads of rigs. I've heard there are ways to prevent losing hooks to crabs. What would you suggest?

JACK ROGERS, PLYMOUTH

**JM says:** Losing hooks to crabs can be a real pain. It's not so bad losing hooks on flapping rigs because we can simply tie on another snood without worrying about regaining the rig tension, like we have to do with clipped rigs. My favourite method to prevent losing hooks to crabs is tying on 6-8 inches of 80lb braid to my hook lengths. Crabs can't seem to claw their way through this braid and I always wind in with my hooks attached. Unfortunately, tying snoods with braided tips is slightly more time consuming. Another problem that can occur when using braided tips on our snoods is a higher possibility of tangles. I like 80lb braid because it works out to be 0.40mm in diameter. You should bear in mind a thicker braid will be easier to untangle. Furthermore, the shorter your braided tip on the snood, the less

likely it is to tangle in the first place. I usually go for 6-8 inches depending on my bait size. If you are only planning on only using small baits, perhaps for distance casting, then you may even get away with using a smaller 4 inch braided tip on the snood. My favourite knot to attach the braided tips to the top half of my monofilament snood line is the Albright knot. I recommend attaching the braid to the monofilament first and then cutting your braided tip to the desired length. Before cutting the braid remember to leave an additional 2 inches for tying your hook knot. Before attaching your hook to the braid, you will want to slide down a sequin or bait stop, along with attractor beads if required. Finish off by attaching the hook and then cut the snood to your desired length.

**Q** When fishing I usually just use a straight 70lb shock leader. I've recently been told that I could increase my casting distances by using a tapered leader instead but I'm not sure how and why this will work?

DONALD WILCOX, MERSEYSIDE

**JM says:** Just using a tapered leader will not improve your casting distance. However, tapered leaders married together with lower diameters of mainline, along with suitably balanced tackle, may in fact help you to achieve greater casting distances. Another bonus when using a tapered leader is you will end up with a much smaller leader knot. When using finer mainlines, tying a strong knot to a thick leader can prove difficult and may result in quite a cumbersome knot. You can achieve some much smaller knots when using tapered leaders. Smaller leader knots will obviously pass through the guides on



your rod more easily and that may also gain you a few extra yards when casting. If you decide to try a tapered leader, remember to check the breaking strain and make sure it will be suitable for the casting weights. Tapered leaders are often meant for finer diameters of mainline; the top end of the leader may not be strong enough for the casting weights you select and could snap midway through the cast.



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

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**Q On Sunday I caught a stingray from the beach at St Osyth. Not wanting to damage the fish (or get a nasty sting) we didn't weigh it. It was approx 50cm wing tip to wing tip. Is there a size chart for stingrays? What approx weight do you think this was? Do you have any tips on handling these fish?**

**JM says:** Firstly, congratulations on your personal best stingray. To answer the first part of your questions, there are some good conversion charts available to us on the internet. The one that I used converted a male stingray of 50cm across the wings to 4kg (8lb 8oz). However, there was also a separate conversion chart for female stingrays. A female stingray of 50cm across the wings would have converted to 5.4kg (11lb 9oz). It is actually great to see more anglers turning to a conversion chart system because measuring a fish and then carrying out a quick release definitely puts less stress on the fish. I just wish that some of our larger sea angling governing bodies would work on their own conversion charts, from which they could then offer specimen fish awards for this particular form of

weight recording. Perhaps to begin with there could be separate categories for weighed and measured fish, like there already is in many other countries around the world. With regards to good fish handling on the beach, I would firstly recommend using an unhooking mat for larger species of fish like stingray. You could also have a bucket of fresh seawater and use that to pour over a large fish on the unhooking mat to keep the gills wet. Obviously, the best unhooking procedure would be when the fish is still in the water, followed by a quick release but most anglers like to record the weight of their fish and get a photograph. As the name would suggest, you are right to be cautious of a stingray and many anglers opt to use a rag or towel to cover the tail when handling them on the beach.

**Q A lot of my mates told me to try fishing with a dongle rig and I gave it a go. I kind of understand how the rig is supposed to work but I am having problems missing bites. Please can you tell me where I might be going wrong?**

ALAN YOUNG, HAMPSHIRE

**JM says:** A dongle rig allows you to have one hook attached to the top of your bait, it is also a mechanism which allows you to then clip down that bait to your rig before casting. With regards to baiting up and casting, this is a really clever rig. Often with the aid of a baiting tool, the dongle rig is pretty easy to bait up and leaves a single hook sitting proud in the top half of your bait. Once clipped up,

the dongle rig is also very aerodynamic for casting. Most anglers use a single circle hook when fishing with a dongle rig, hoping to reduce deep hook-ups in fish, cut down on tackle losses and miss fewer bites. Unfortunately, the fish don't always read the script and if they are grabbing the bait below the hook this could result in you missing bites. I guess patience is the key here, you may need to sit on your hands and let bites develop. Basically, we are waiting for the fish to hook themselves, especially when using a circle hook. You could learn to differentiate your bites, trying to ignore the smaller judders and waiting for a more positive pull down on your rod tip. If you are using circle hooks, try not to strike as there is no need to set the hook, all you need to do is wait for a positive bite, gently lift the rod, turn the handle on your reel and retrieve.



To coincide with Sea Angler's 50th anniversary we've updated our great prizes

### SHORE WINNER:

- Two spools of Sufix tritanium
- One spool of Superior leader
- Two spools of shock max leader
- RRP: £65



### BOAT CATEGORY:

- One spool of Sufix Matrix Pro 250m braid
- A bracelet of sufix invisiline
- RRP: £65



### LURE CATEGORY:

- Five Rapala Max Rap Lures
- RRP: £65

Prizes are subject to stock availability. Actual prize may be slightly different to those shown



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[www.sufixfishing.fishing](http://www.sufixfishing.fishing) and [www.rapala.co.uk](http://www.rapala.co.uk)

T&Cs: \* One prize per winning question will be chosen by the editor. Prizes cannot be exchanged and no correspondence will be looked into. We reserve the right to send alternative prizes.



# Q&A

## LURE FISHING

**Q Is bass fishing the best when the tide is coming in?**

FRED PEACOCK, CAMBRIDGE

**HG says:** This is such an interesting question because all our logical human thoughts point towards fish coming in to feed with a flooding tide and then departing once the tide starts to go out. I completely understand why this sounds logical, but if we go down that route we are forgetting one vital thing – we are not fish! We do not behave like fish and we have the benefit of using complex reasoning to navigate our way through life. Fish are acting purely on instinct, which is baked into their DNA, and fish are most likely acting upon feeding and breeding urges.

If I think about all the different bass marks I might fish within an hour of my front door, then I reckon I find myself fishing the outgoing or ebb tide more than I do the flood or incoming tide. I can't prove that a certain reef tends to fish best from high tide down into the ebb tide, rather I have to base my knowledge on when to fish via time spent fishing and trying to work out when I see most activity. What I don't subscribe to is fish coming in on the flood tide only. If you were to fish for 24 hours a day for days on end you would find that there are quiet times in tide cycles. This might be because there is literally no water in front of you because the tide is miles out, or it could be because whatever food source the bass are after aren't available. There has to be a lot more to it than this, but we are humans and fish are fish, and for all that we think we know we are always going to be second-guessing our quarry.

There's no doubt that I will fish the

flood tide a lot, but when fishing current in estuaries – often around the mouth of an estuary – I will nearly always fish the last few hours of the ebb tide because time and effort has shown me that this tends to be the most productive time. I often find that the early part of the flood tide can work well on beaches either at night in calmer conditions, or during the day when there is some surf rolling in. Again, it's a huge generalisation but I often find that the mid two hours of the ebb or flood tide can often be the quietest times to fish for bass. You might also find on a mark that tends to fish well a couple of hours either side



of low water that you get a quiet period for about half an hour either side of the bottom of the tide. I would urge you with bass fishing to ignore any of the supposed 'rules' and put some time in to find out what works best for you, and where you fish.





## WINNING QUESTION

### Q I have found some interesting looking current in an estuary, please can you help with fishing it?

GARETH EVANS, BARRY, SOUTH WALES

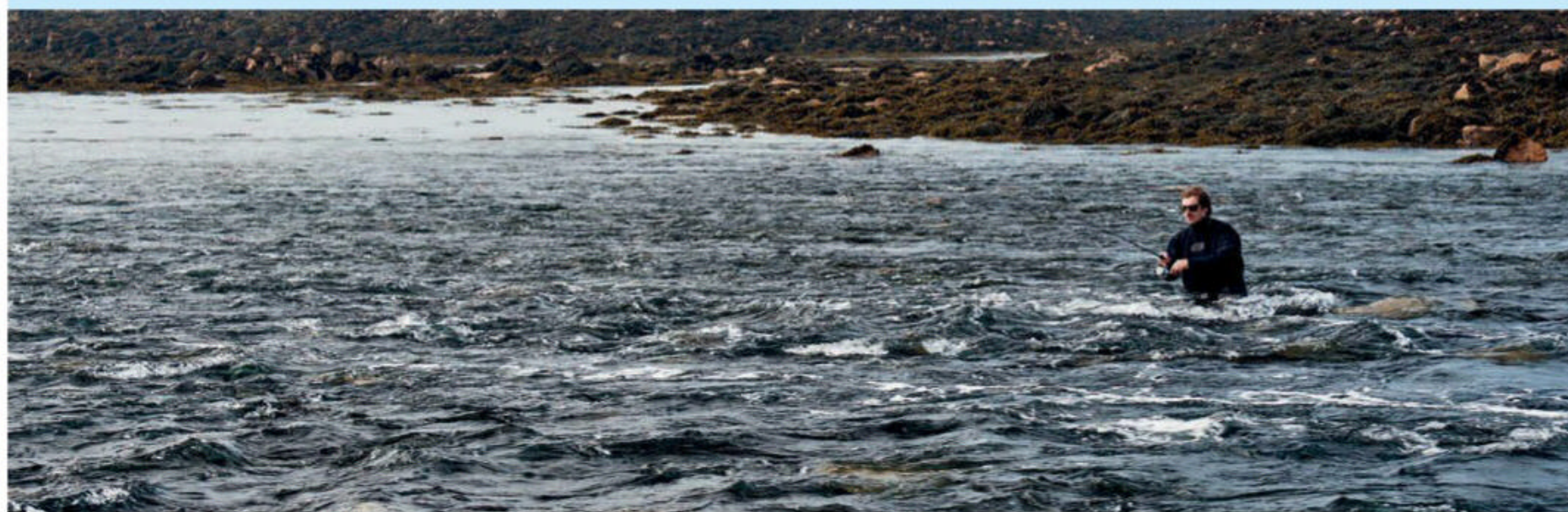
**HG says:** I love current, but to be perfectly honest it took a good while for me to feel really confident targeting areas of current in estuaries with lures. Thanks to a lad in Ireland called Graham Hill I got pretty comfortable pretty quickly fishing bait on the bottom in current, but now try fishing that same kind of water with lures and you need to do a bit more thinking.

First off, think of the current as your friend and don't try to work against it. Trust that the current is

often working your lures for you, and if there is one place to find bass, it's where you find current. Don't worry that when you bump something like a Sandeel V2 Weedless along the bottom in a strong run of current that the lure is really moving along, because it's meant to! Bass are very adept at picking off food items much like trout might do in a river, and you can't go far wrong allowing a soft plastic on a jig head to bump along a run of current. Match the weight of the jig head and overall lure to the speed of the current so you literally need to do nothing but keep

in touch with the lure - once you feel a hard, sharp bang, strike!

Surface lures in current can also be lethal, but it seems to be a more localised way of fishing to me, and different estuaries with different structure can all work rather differently. You can also literally dead-drift soft plastics on weedless hooks, again by trusting that the current is doing most of the movement for you.



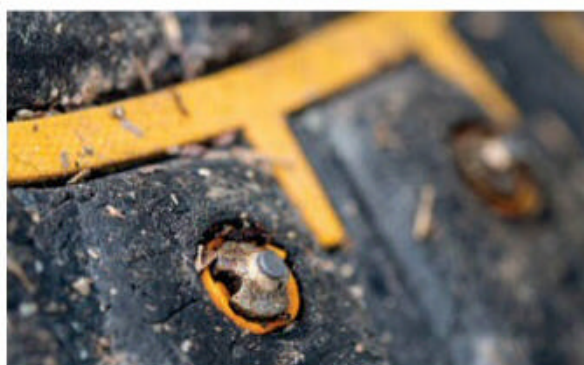
### Q Do you always use studs in your wading boots?

PERRY SHANKLIN, CUMBRIA



because they work so well for me. Some wading boots come with pre-studded soles but I like to retain the option to do things myself if at all possible. I have been using a pair of Bestard SAR Pro Water Rescue Boots that are not actually designed for fishing, but with some Best-Grip studs in their soles they are outstanding boots for use with waders. I have recently come across the Palm Gradient boots from the kayaking world, and I have deliberately not put any studs in them to see how they do - all good so far, indeed the grip on these boots is really quite something.

**HG says:** For the most part yes, I do; indeed, I think back to my bait fishing days when I would be slipping and sliding over some marks and I wish I had known about studs because I could have put them into the soles of my hiking boots and saved myself a bit of pain! When I use conventional wading boots on the bottom of my waders for bass fishing then I tend to use the Best-Grip wading studs





# SEA SCHOOL

Our experts solve your fishing problems

## Q&A

### BOAT ANGLING



**Q I often struggle to catch mackerel when anglers fishing alongside me are pulling up strings of fish. What am I doing wrong?**

GARY DIXON, GLASGOW

**DL says:** Assuming you are using the same or similar lures, it is likely you are not fishing at the depth the fish are shoaling. Start by engaging free spool on your reel, while checking the flow of line with your thumb. Allow the lures to drop about 12-20ft, recheck the flow of line, and jig the rod. If you don't feel anything release another 12-20ft of line, recheck and jig continuing this process through the entire water column until you feel fish hitting the lures; you'll soon develop the knack!



**Q How much should the vent in a fuel tank cap be opened, and when not in use should it be left open or closed?**

JAMES DAVIS, SURREY

**DL says:** Open the vent just enough to allow the pressure inside the tank to equalise with the atmosphere, almost always you'll hear a hiss when this occurs. It will now be sufficiently open to prevent an airlock, and subsequent fuel starvation from occurring as the fuel level in the tank drops, while minimising the ingress of moisture. At the end of the day the vent should be fully closed, rendering the tank airtight. This prevents fuel spillages during transportation and, most importantly, degradation of the fuel quality due to evaporation during stowage.

**Q I enjoyed reading the article on Soft Inflatable Boats (SIB) in the March issue of Sea Angler. It is something that I'm seriously thinking of trying. Are you able to offer any suggestions on who to approach.**

IAN LEWIS, SWANSEA

**WINNING QUESTION**

**DL says:** I speak to a lot of anglers who are just like you are considering purchasing their first SIB. You will find the contact details for many SIB retailers online, but my advice would be to start by contacting those nearest to you. Buying locally and establishing a positive relationship with a dealership will always be an advantage in the future. Most dealers will be more than happy to arrange an on the water trial and if they are not prepared to do this, my advice is to find another dealer!





## Q Are ground baits intended for use in freshwater effective in the sea?

COLIN BERRY, TEESIDE

**DL says:** Under certain circumstances, and for certain species, yes. Examples of this are when targeting bream and mullet, both of which respond well to the introduction of ground bait. Other species include garfish and, of course, various members of the shark family. The most commonly used ground baits at sea consists of a mix of bran or breadcrumb and mashed fish, usually with the addition of fish oil. I am sure that some specialist freshwater preparations, many of which are actually fish based, would be highly effective if used in the sea.



## Q Is it possible to keep sandeels alive without installing a livebait tank aboard your boat?

MIKE NEVILLE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

**DL says:** Provided they are kept in a damp and cool environment sandeels are surprisingly easy to keep alive and healthy. Place a couple of frozen cool packs in the bottom of either a polystyrene fish box or a cool box, then cover these with several layer of newspaper that have been soaked in seawater. Place the eels on top of the soaked paper, then cover these with additional paper that also has been well soaked in seawater. Other than when selecting an eel for bait, keep the lid on the box at all times.

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## Q When a communal fish box is used aboard a charter boat to retain harvested fish, what is the best way to identify those fish that each angler has caught?

KEN WONG, LONDON

**DL says:** The most widely seen method is for each angler to mark his fish with a specific knife cut, or by removing a particular fin. An easier and more visually effective way is for each angler to use a different coloured plastic cable tie as shown.





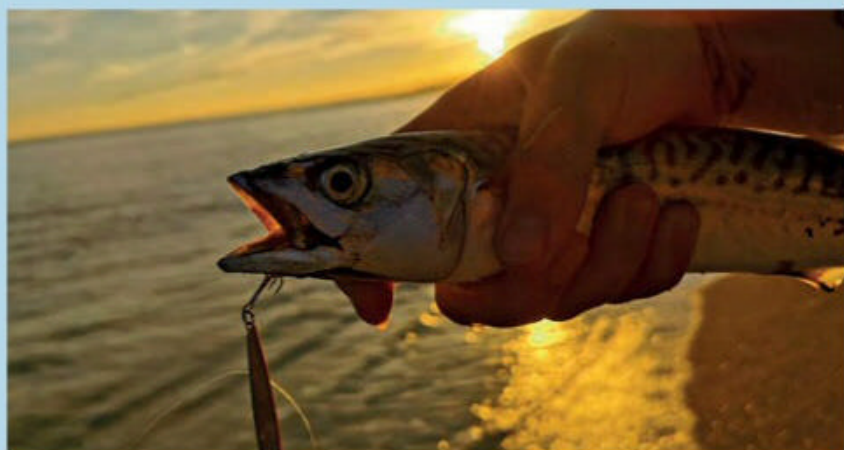
## Q &amp; A

## LIGHT ROCK FISHING

**Q** Can you explain the weight ranges for light rock fishing (LRF) and heavy rock fishing (HRF)?

ALAN EVANS, EXETER, DEVON

**BB says:** Here's a question with an ever changing answer. It's first worth answering why we have weight ranges at all? The reason is to define the class of tackle we are using, this helps us find similar anglers and understand their catches and methods. To answer your question, LRF is generally described as fishing from 0-8g but with a lot of Japanese LRF/Aji style rods being rated to 10g casting weight, these are often included within the LRF bracket. HRF is normally from 15g upwards, for fishing bigger, heavier lures for snaggy or deeper marks, or for targeting bigger fish, in this country, HRF is mainly used for targeting ballan wrasse, pollock and bass. When fishing in between 8-15g, this has been called light game fishing or medium rock fishing (MRF), and can be an excellent way to step up your fishing for bigger fish, whilst still maintaining the finesse approach of LRF.



## WINNING QUESTION



**Q** What is the easiest way to get those tiny baits onto those tiny hooks when you have giant sausage fingers like mine?

WAYNE MORGAN, PORTSMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE

**BB says:** Ah, the micro-fishing conundrum. For tiny fish, we must have tiny hooks and with that, miniscule baits. How small? Well, I regularly use only a couple of millimetres of Isome or Gulp to catch the true micro species, such as two spotted goby or montagu's blenny. To achieve this it's best to pinch the tiniest section of bait from your artificial worm that you can, pull the hook through it, then pinch off the excess from the hook. You want the section no bigger than your tiny hook. A set of reading glasses can be helpful if your eyesight isn't great close up.

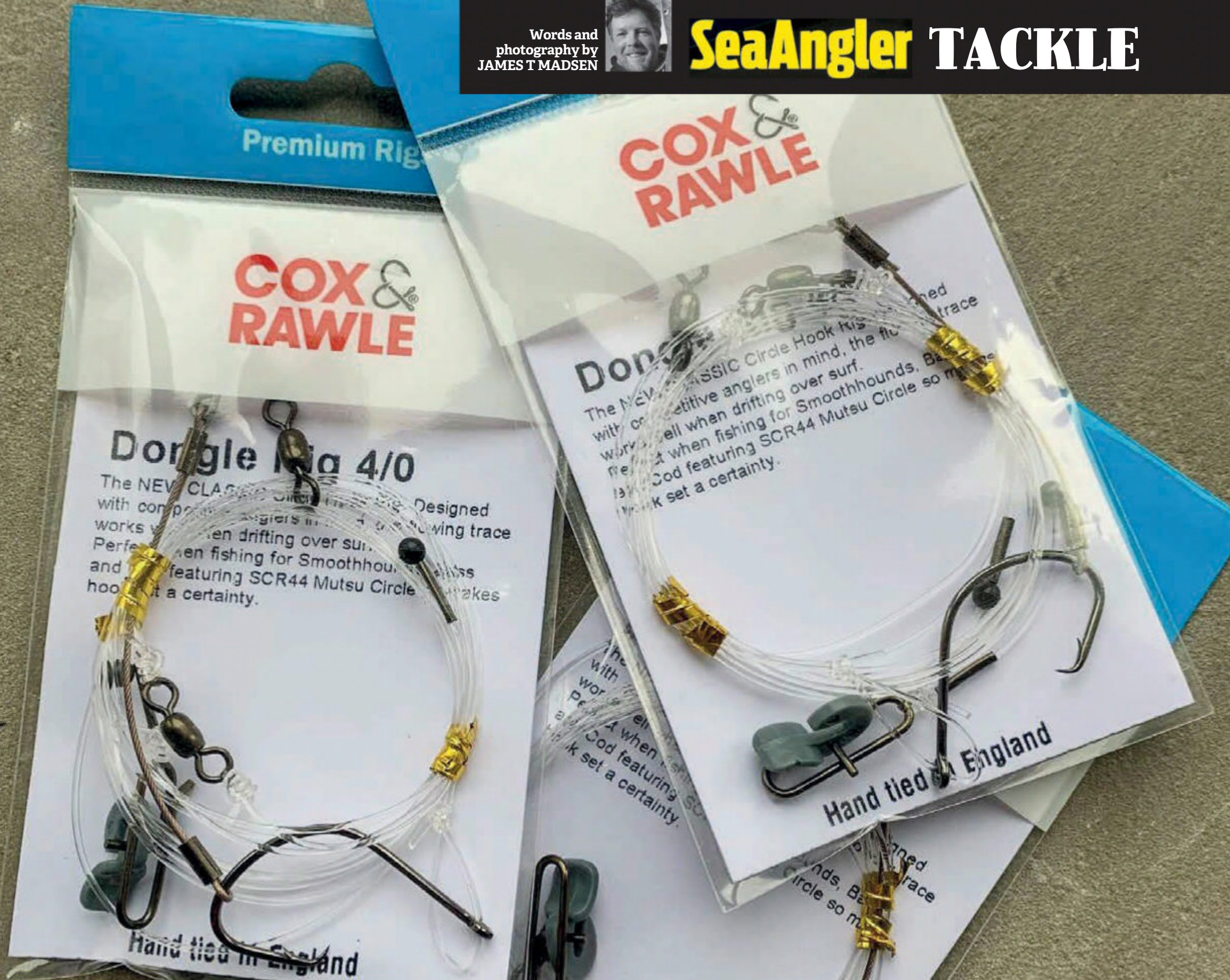
**Q** Of all the shore species that you have caught, which one presented you with the greatest challenge and how did you overcome that?

CLIVE HODGES, BRIGHTON, EAST SUSSEX

**BB says:** The toughest seems is the rockcook wrasse. These beautiful wrasse can be common but I had struggled with them, still having only ever caught two. I finally caught one by racking the brains of someone who had showed me that these small wrasse prefer green or brown sections of Isome or Gulp and require tiny hooks. Take advice and be patient!







# DOING THE DONGLE

Ready to fish Dongle rigs are now available from Cox & Rawle's innovative range. James Madsen explains the rig's background and how to use them

## COX & RAWLE DONGLE RIGS

RRP: £3.75

**SeaAngler**  
**EXPERT**  
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### INTRODUCING THE DONGLE

Cox & Rawle have just completed their ready-tied version of the dongle rig. It seems like sea anglers all over the country are eager to get their hands on these rigs. From what I hear, there are many anglers who are already enjoying some great results with the dongle rigs as well. A dongle is something you attach your bait to. It was primarily rigged to fish baits below the hook when fishing with a single circle hook. Many anglers now also use a dongle when they want to fish a single J hook in the top of a bait. A major advantage of using a dongle is that it gives you the ability to clip a bait down next to your lead for distance casting and in doing so has eliminated the need for a second hook in the bait. The dongle idea itself originated in South Africa where it is known as the 'Dingle Dangle' rig.

Circle hooks are widely used in South Africa because they believe in good fish conservation. In fact, when it comes to competition fishing in South Africa, the rules often state that all of the competitors must use circle hooks and J hooks are completely banned from their sea fishing events. You see, in order for a circle hook to work correctly you need your bait sitting at the lowest point of the gape on the hook. The South African anglers created the Dingle Dangle because it gave a perfect bait presentation on a circle hook and made the bait more aerodynamic when clipped down on a rig for distance casting. This was particularly crucial when they wanted to fish big baits out at good casting distances. As it happened, international anglers from Great Britain copied the Dingle Dangle rig from



The Dongle is attached to the hook shank





**A hound caught by James using the new Dongle rig**

## BAITING A DONGLE

Baiting up the dongle rig is pretty straightforward but would be made a whole lot easier with the use of a good baiting tool. Cox & Rawle already have the perfect tool in their range for baiting up the dongle. Their 16cm double pronged bait loader is easy to handle and a great length that will cover a good variety of different sized baits. You will need to marry up your bait size to the length of the dongle on the rig. When baiting up you should also make sure that you leave the dongle clip, found at the bottom of the rig, exposed. My advice would be to attach your bait to the baiting tool first with elastic. By doing this you can more easily work out the correct size for your dongle. Once baits are sized correctly, just nick the circle hook into the top of your bait and use elastic to fix your bait firmly to the dongle. All you need to do next is attach your dongle clip to the impact release clip on the rig and it will be ready for casting. It's also worth noting, when clipped up, these dongle rigs from Cox & Rawle are exceptionally aerodynamic and built for casting good distances.

## IN THE RANGE

By all accounts, Cox & Rawle are launching a good selection of different dongle rigs in their range and they are also selling all of the accessories. It's looking like you will be able to buy rigs with circle hooks ranging from 3/0 to 6/0. The dongles themselves will come in a variety of different lengths and will be made from wire and braid. If you like to tie your own rigs, all the components needed to make a dongle rig will be sold separately. Cox & Rawle will also be selling the circle hooks separately with a dongle attached and they will also be available in a range of different lengths and hook sizes.

## SPECIFICATIONS

- Pulley rig circle hook rig
- Dongle attached
- Featuring the new 'Dongle Clip'
- Highest quality components as standard
- Available in a range of different sizes

- RRP: £3.75
- Visit [www.coxandrawle.com](http://www.coxandrawle.com)

the South Africans whilst fishing on international fishing duties out in South Africa. Basically, the Dingle Dangle rig became the Dongle rig once it had landed on home soil. I know these guys could see all the advantages of using circle hooks in their domestic fishing, especially in certain competitions, where they felt it may give them a slight edge on the rest of the competitors. By doing so they have now, somewhat inadvertently, started a new craze in British sea fishing.

## THE BEST WAY FORWARD

There are a number of very good reasons why it's worth switching to using circle hooks on our rigs. The most important reason for most anglers has to be better fish conservation. A circle hook, when rigged correctly, nearly always catches in the mouth of a fish and avoids deeper hook-ups around the more vital organs, like the gills and gut. Seeing as most anglers these days like to practice better catch and release when fishing, using circle hooks seems to be a bit of a no brainer. Another massive advantage for anglers using circle hooks is to cut down on tackle losses when fishing over rough ground. Because the point of a circle hook faces at ninety degrees to the shank, it's much less likely to get caught up in the seabed. Losing less tackle on the seabed is not only good for our pockets, it's also better for the environment. One more advantage for anglers using circle hooks is missing fewer bites, especially when it comes to faster running fish. Mind you, there is a bit of a knack to fishing with a circle hook and often we need to be a little more patient with our bites. The main aim when fishing with a circle hook is to allow the fish to hook itself. There should be no need to strike when fishing with a circle, the hook needs to find its own way into the mouth of a fish. Successful bite to hook-up ratios are also determined by how you have rigged up your circle hooks and bait. There is definitely a bit of science to using a circle hook with a dongle and we need to fully understand its function in order to truly reap the advantages when fishing with this rig.

## DESIGNED BY EXPERTS

Cox & Rawle's dongle rigs have been designed by anglers who have been fishing successfully with circle hooks now and for some time. Essentially, this is a single circle hook pulley rig with a dongle attached.



**Cox & Rawle Dongle rig and baiting tool**



**The circle hook avoids deep-hooking fish**

When taking a look at the business end of the rig you will notice the circle hook has been attached with a perfection loop and the dongle itself moves freely up and down the hook shank. It's smaller details like these which can make all the difference and increase our success rate. Cox & Rawle have also brought out a very useful dongle clip that allows you to easily attach your bait to your impact release clip before casting.

**The Dongle rig originally came from South African anglers – like these in Durban**





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# PREPARING YOUR CATCH

Bass, bream and other 'round' fish

## STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

**I**n the last of this series we see how to prepare the scaly species for the table including black bream, bass, mullet and gurnards. The technique is the same for all 'round' fish. With these species it is necessary to remove all the scales before cooking if you want to eat the crispy skin. Also, be aware that these species have small pin bones that need removal so as not to spoil the eating experience.

The master fishmonger from the Boathouse Fisheries will show us his technique and pass on hints and tips for easy filleting. Cerion has chosen a bass of about 3lb to show us the technique of filleting which will leave next to nothing on the skeleton. A fish of this size will feed four people with good portions.



After the removal of the scales with the edge of the knife (with care as the blade will be toward you) place the knife just behind the pectoral fin and make a 'v' cut on both sides of the fish to remove both head and guts together. A small cut to the top of the head will allow the removal.





**2**

For the fillets, follow the fish's backbone first down one side and then the other letting your sharp filleting knife do the work by keeping it as close to the bones as possible to avoid wasting any flesh.



**4**

Clean the fish with freshwater to remove loose scales and to clean away any blood as this will taint the flesh.



**3**

Move the knife from tail to head, or vice versa – whatever you find to be best for you. Most left-handed people find head to tail easiest.



**5**

The pin bones are located down the centre of the pair of fillets and can be removed with a pair of tweezers.

I would like to thank Cerion and all at the Boathouse Fisheries for their patience in creating these hints and tips. I hope you have all taken away from this series some useful skills to help you make the most of your catches.

Thanks to the team at Boathouse Fisheries in St Mary's Bay for their help. If you are interested in learning more, we highly recommend signing up for one of their fish filleting courses, details of which can be found on the website at [www.theboathousefisheries.co.uk](http://www.theboathousefisheries.co.uk)



*Century*

Words and images: John Holden

## TO CLIP, OR NOT?

Sea Angler's resident casting expert, John Holden, argues simplicity is best and discusses whether bait clips are necessary at all

**M**any an angler would rather run naked along the beach than fish without bait clips. I watched in astonishment once as a guy on the pier spent ages clipping down his rig, then lowered it straight down into the sea. Clips are not a must-have feature of every rig. They are sometimes essential, but we can often get by perfectly well without them, saving time, expense and hassle.

Most commercial bait clips are excellent, offering smooth launch, streamlined flight and instant release at the end of the cast. Genuine products from Breakaway and Gemini are hugely popular because they do the job so well - and they're safe, which is where the genuine part comes in. Knock-off copies range from unreliable to downright dangerous.

That said, an open hook of stainless wire secured by a piece of plastic tube works every bit as well as the top-end products once you get the hang of making and fitting them. Convenience aside, one clear exception to the DIY approach is that locking clips such as Gemini's Splash Down make life much easier for ground

casting because the baited hook doesn't fall out of the clip when the rig is laid out to cast.

When clips first arrived, we soon discovered that the best place for clipped-down baits, big ones especially, is close behind the sinker. Casting is easier, and being tucked into the sinker's slipstream the bait is shielded from mid-air drag and thus remains undamaged and flies that bit farther. This low position also gives the option to use a separate bait clip or one integral with the sinker itself, as with the Breakaway Impact lead.

For rigs such as a baited hook set on a short snood well above the sinker, though, the clip must necessarily be high as well. Stability and streamlining are compromised here, but that may not be a problem with small baits. Trouble flares when the mass of a chunky bait rivals that of the lead. Neither being dominant, bait and sinker tend to whirl around in mid-air, leading to savage bait damage and maybe to backlashes as well.

One option seldom considered these days is not to bother with clips at all. This side of 100yd, I find no compelling need for clipping except with big, fragile baits such as soft crab on long traces. Rigs can be simple and cheap with no need for

gadgetry or the attendant game of getting all the bits to work well together. Given a clean launch, baits stay intact and fly more than well enough.

The best solution to most questions about rigs in general and clipping in particular is not to be a copycat but to play around with ideas of your own. Try the various options from commercial rigs and components down to the simplest of DIY stuff. Experiment with clip position and the like. Find out what works for you. To me anyway, modern rigs seem unnecessarily complicated and fussy, yet they offer no obvious advantage over basic stuff. You may be surprised how simple it all can be. Your wallet might enjoy the difference as well.

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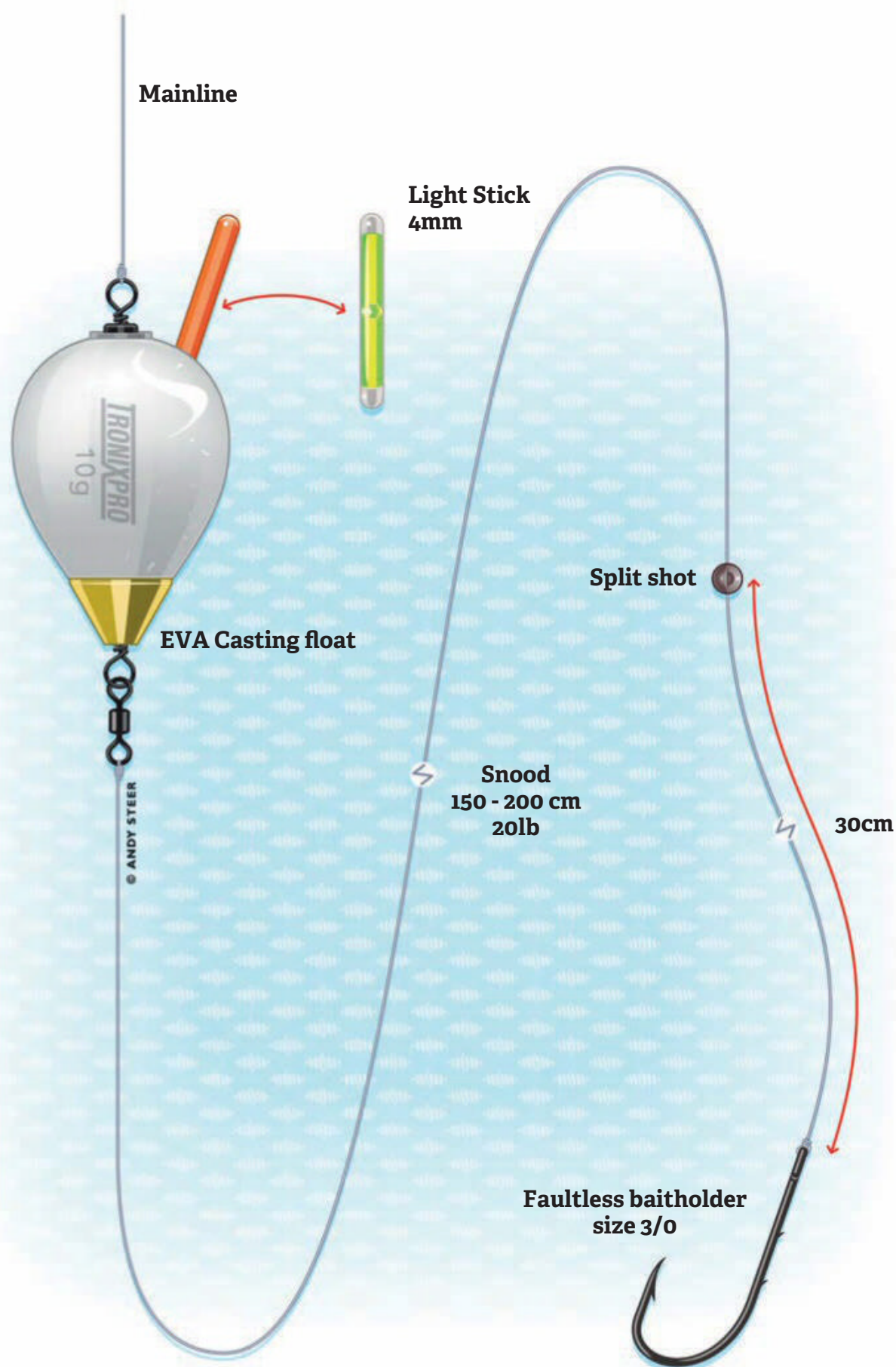


## CASTING FLOAT RIG

**T**he casting float rig makes use of the weight of the float to cast the rig without the need for an additional weight. The rig can be used with both lures and bait and it is ideal for targeting fish high in the water column such as bass, mackerel and garfish. The float can be left to fish or retrieved when using artificial lures. One other key aspect of the casting float rig is the ability to set the depth of your hook snood and fish sinking lures and baits over rough ground while keeping the hook clear of any snags. Casting floats come in different weights depending on what and how you are fishing. Tronixpro EVA casting floats, such as the one featured in the illustration, range from 10g-80g to suit different fishing requirements.

### Step-by-step

1. Tie the end of your mainline to the eye on the top of your casting float. Then tie 150cm-200cm of 20lb hook length (mono or fluorocarbon) to the swivel on the bottom of the casting float.
2. Next, tie your hook to the end of your hook length. The size and style of hook or lure will depend on your fishing circumstances.
3. Thirty centimetres above the hook you can attach a single split shot to your hook length to ensure that the bait or lure sinks and fishes at the required depth.
4. Finally, if fishing at night, you can attach a fluorescent light stick to your float to enable you to see it in the water.



### SEA Fishing Knots

From the reel to the hook



### SEA FISHING KNOTS - FROM THE REEL TO HOOK

Contains clear, concise, easy to follow step-by-step knot-tying illustrations by Andy Steer of recommended sea fishing/big game fishing knots and set-ups.

This publication should help you to gain a solid base of reliable, tried and tested knots, enabling you to land more fish. It will also help you protect the environment and save money by losing less tackle.

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Words and images: Mike Thrussell

## THE KIT YOU NEED FOR...

# SHORE

# BALLAN WRASSE

Ballan wrasse are the ideal holiday target fish being readily available from breakwaters, piers, and rock ledges in the more popular tourism areas such the south and southwest of England, most of the Welsh coast, the Scottish coast, and virtually the whole of Ireland. Here's a list of tackle you'll need

### RODS

9 to 10ft spinning rods rated to cast 2 to 3oz will handle most pier and breakwater general wrasse fishing using either float tackle or ledger tactics. The same gear will suffice off the rock ledges, but if the fish potentially go over 4lb then a bass rod rated to 4oz, or the compact for travelling 3-piece Shakespeare XT MPV (Multi-Purpose Vehicle) has more power available to play out a big wrasse that crash dives for cover. Ballan wrasse are one of a few fish that need to be really bullied from the off to avoid them reaching snags.

■ SHAKESPEARE SALT XT MPV  
10FT 56-112G RRP £79.99



### HOOKS

Hooks need to be stronger **Viking type** patterns in size 1/0 to 2/0 for average sized wrasse but go up to 3/0 or 4/0 for bigger wrasse. Check the hook point and resharpen constantly as wrasse have bony mouths and getting the hook to fully penetrate is key to catching. Wrasse have good eyesight, so use bronzed hooks not bright finished nickel hooks which can put wrasse off in clear sunlit seas.

■ MUSTAD VIKING 79515 NP-BR HOOKS  
SIZE 4/0 x 25 RRP £8.50

### REELS

Fixed spool reels are the only choice. 4000 sized reels go well with the spinning rods, but for the bass and MPV rods choose a 5000 to 5500 size. These can be loaded with heavier breaking strain lines and have the strength in the gearing and mechanics to combat the sheer power of a big wrasse diving for cover. Reels also need to have drags that can be locked up as it's important not to give a diving wrasse line, or at least as little as possible, during the fight.

■ PENN FIERCE 111 5000 RRP £102.99





## MAINLINE

For the 4000 sized reels load with 20lb braid for general float fishing. It's wise to still add a short 20lb fluorocarbon leader as this will withstand contact with rocks better than a braid will when amongst snags. For the bigger 5000 sized reels, load with 30lb braid. This sounds heavy but is the best choice when targeting big rock ledge wrasse. Add a 30lb fluorocarbon leader if the fish seem shy of the braid which can happen in clear relatively shallow water. Lines in brown and green also tend to match well with the surrounding terrain. Avoid bright coloured braids.

■ TRONIXPRO POWER BRAID 27LBS  
RRP £29.99



## BAITS

Lug and rag baits will take wrasse but tend to pick out the smaller fish generally. Bigger wrasse feed mainly on crab,



so chunks of peeler crab, or even just a normal hardback with the hook passed through the back edge in the middle with the hook point well clear will give good presentation. If you're getting bites but not hooking the fish, use a smaller crab and leave the legs on one side binding these up the shank of the hook with bait elastic. This forces the wrasse to take at the hook end and gets you more fish. Bait elastic generally stops the wrasse from ripping the bait off the hook easily and improves hook ups.

■ TRONIXPRO BAITEX TUBE (BAIT ELASTIC) RRP £3.99

## RIGS

For ledger fishing, tie a size 2 three-way swivel to the main line. To the middle eye tie on 12-inches of 20/30lb Fluorocarbon for the hook length. To the lower swivel eye tie on 18-inches of 15lb mono line. This lighter 15lb line will break well before the hook length and main line if the lead weight gets snagged in rocks saving tackle and fish. Hold the rod and feel for bites which will be a single tap then the rod tip being wrenched down!



## LEAD WEIGHTS

Use the lightest lead weights you can as they snag less. Often an ounce is enough as you are just dropping down between breakwater boulders or straight down off rock ledges. Only used old leads, not bright new leads as again the shine can put wrasse off. Old nuts and bolts and even spark plugs work well as cheap alternative weights.

## FLOATS

Tapered cigar shaped floats rated from 12g to 35g are ideal. Smaller floats are fine around man-made structure but use the bigger 35g/56g floats off the breakwaters and rock ledges in deeper water. Rig them by sliding a 5mm bead up the main line, slide on the float, then a ball-weight of the right weight size for the float and another bead. To the end of the line tie on a size 2 swivel. Add an 18-inch 20lb fluorocarbon hook length to the end of the swivel and complete with the hook. Above the top bead onto the main line, using a short section of mono line, tie on a 5-turn Grinner knot to form a sliding stop knot to allow the floats height to be set for varied depth. Having the bait just up off the bottom or working a few feet up along a rock ledge is a good starting point but keep adjusting the bait and float depth until you find the fish.

■ TRONIXPRO CIGAR FLOATS WHITE/YELLOW 12g to 35g RRP £1.99 56G £2.20





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## FISHEAGLE SARACEN BEACH ROD 12FT 2-4OZ

This is the two piece 12ft 2-4oz version of the best selling Saracen beach rods which are sturdy, reliable and solid bits of kit.

- Designed to offer unbeatable value for money, ideal for the occasional angler or beginner.
- Suitable for general beach fishing but also capable of fishing in mixed ground and from offshore structures.
- Lightweight with good actions for detecting bites and for casting.
- A proper fishing rod that is an excellent stepping stone to a more advanced setup.

## FISHEAGLE Q8 8000 SURF REEL

- Sturdy pre-loaded fixed spool reel the 8000 is ideal for beachcasters and surf rods.
- Adjustable front drag
- Preloaded with quality mono
- Ball bearing
- Sure grip handle

## FISHEAGLE RIG WALLET + 10 BAIT RIGS

Superb quality selection of bait rigs in a velcro closure rig wallet to keep them safe and tidy. Selected specifically to offer a proven set of fish catchers the selection includes two each of some of the top bait rigs packed in individual zip-sealed plastic wallets.

### Rigs Supplied

- 2 x 2 Hook Flapper rig - 1/0 hook 35lb
- 2 x 2 Hook Pennell Pulley rig - 4/0 hook 40lb
- 2 x 3 Hook Flapper rig - 2 hook 25lb
- 2 x Bomber rig - 1/0 hook 25lb
- 2 x Clipped Distance rig - 2/0 35lb



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## FISHEAGLE SARACEN MACKEREL ROD

If you're fishing off piers and rocks you need a rod to get your baits out there. This two-piece 11ft Saracen Mackerel rod is perfect for throwing feather rigs to the horizon or chucking a float out into gullies and bays.

### Features:

- Screw winch reel seat
- Spigot joints
- Glazed tip
- Cloth bag

## FISHEAGLE Q8 SURF REEL

The 6000 is perfect for pairing with your pier/mackerel/bass rod.

The 8000 is ideal for beachcasters and surf rods.

- Adjustable Front drag
- Preloaded with quality mono
- Ball bearing
- Sure grip handle



## FISHEAGLE RIG WALLET

Superb quality selection of feather rigs in a velcro closure rig wallet to keep them safe and tidy.

- 2 x 4 Hook Super Daylite rig
- 2 x 6 Hook Tinsel Flasha rig
- 2 x 4 Hook Reflector rig
- 2 x 3 Hook Hokkai Tempter rig
- 2 x 3 Hook Mackerel rig



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## FISHEAGLE ALL-ROUNDER

A sturdy all round 8ft two-piece rod that is happy chucking everything from feathers and wedges to tobies and bubble floats.

- Lined guides
- Cushioned reel seat
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- Cloth bag

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Sturdy Pre-Loaded Fixed Spool Reel ideal for all round angling for Trout, Perch, Pike.

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### **PENN** Squall Level Wind Multiplier

Tough and reliable level-wind reels covering all aspects of general boat fishing with both mono and braid lines. Features include a graphite frame and side-plate, marine grade bronze main and pinion gear, HT100 Versa Drag system and an instant anti-reverse bearing.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE1595	20	415yds/17lb	£119.99	£80.00
PE1597	30	455yds/25lb	£129.99	£80.00

### **FISHEAGLE** Q8 Surf Reel Loaded with Mono

Sturdy Pre-Loaded Fixed Spool Reel.

- The 6000 is perfect for pairing with your pier/ Mackerel/Bass Rod.
- The 8000 is ideal for beachcasters and surf rods.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
RE0837	6000	0.60mm/145m	£29.99	£19.99
RE0865	8000	0.50mm/240m	£29.99	£19.99

### **Shakespeare** Agility Surf Reels

Purpose built for UK beach fishing, Shakespeare's Agility Surf range are designed to handle saltwater use, and are thoroughly tested for reliability. Features a large capacity, distance casting spool, matched with a smooth drag system.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SP3392	70	20lbs/240yds	£64.99	£40.00
SP3391	80	15lbs/360yds	£66.99	£40.00

### **Shakespeare** Agility Saltwater FD Reel

The Agility Saltwater FD reels deliver a quality, saltwater proof reel for a great price. Holds up to 150m of 12lb mono or 300m of 30lb braid.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SP4008	40	150m/12lb	£55.99	£30.00
SP4009	60	200m/20lb	£59.99	£40.00

### **FISHEAGLE**

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The suit features a reflective tape for night safety, a stitched-in belt with ITW Nexus buckle and a CE 394 whistle. Made from a light, wind and water-resistant fabric, they provide comfort for any inclement trips day or night as well as safety in the water.

RRP £139.99

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CODE	SIZE
RE0852	S
RE0853	M
RE0854	L
RE0855	XL
RE0856	2XL
RE0857	3XL
RE0858	4XL



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### **okuma** Distance Surf Arena Fixed Spool Reel

- Graphite blade body
- Worm shaft Oscillation system
- 1 one-way roller bearing
- Cold Forged Aluminium Distance spool
- Flex aluminium line clip
- Bail lock system
- Holds 210m of 20lb mono



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SV20018	DSA-60	0.40mm/210m	£59.99	£50.00

### **Daiwa** Sealine Slosh Multipliers

The SL20SH and SL30SH are two top drawer performers boasting powerful, high speed gearing. Nicknamed 'Slosh' by their many fans around UK coastlines, they are excellent for all shore work, uptiding and a variety of down tide boat fishing.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
DW0631	SL20SH	250m/20lbs	£125.00	£95.00
DW0633	SL30SH	300m/20lbs	£125.00	£95.00

### **PENN** Fathom II 15 SD CS Star Drag Casting Special Multiplier

A high performance reel for the shore angler who is looking for a reel to cast the maximum distance whilst still having the power to handle big fish and tough conditions.



CODE	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE1946	430m/0.35mm	£234.99	£225.00

### **Abu Garcia** 6500C3 CT Premium

The 6500C3 CT Premium edition is built to the same high standard as its label mate, the 6500C3 CT, but weighs in a whole 105g lighter, giving you a durable yet lightweight multiplier you can rely on.



CODE	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PU1515	200yds/20lb	£209.99	£150.00

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CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PRICE
CN0181	Graphex Match Beach	13ft 6	125-175g	£515
CN0182	Graphex Supermatch LD Beachcaster	13ft	50-150g	£499
CN0183	Graphex Ultralite ST Beachcaster	13ft	50-125g	£475
CN0394	Fireblade Surf	13ft	4-6oz	£275
CN0180	Tip Tornado Beach	13ft 6	4-7oz	£520
CN0179	Tip Tornado Graphex Sport Beach	13ft 11	4-8oz	£560
CN0078	Kompressor SS Beachcaster	13ft 10	4-7oz	£465

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### **FISHEAGLE** Saracen Boat Rod



The Saracen Boat Rod from Fish Eagle continue the trend of uncompromising performance balanced with outstanding value. The powerful 2 piece blank is rigged with fully lined guides, a dependable screw lock reel seat, and is rated at a versatile 20-30lb, making it ideal for a wide range of offshore targets in British waters.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
RE0552	7ft	20-30lb	2	£29.99	£14.99

### **PENN** Tidal Surfcasting Rods

**BEST SELLER**



Tidal stands for everything you need for surfcasting: Super strong but lightweight and responsive 30T carbon blanks that are designed to have the best distance properties.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
PE2301	14ft	50-200g	3	£126.99
PE2302	14ft	100-225g	3	£126.99
PE2303	14ft	100-250g	3	£126.99
PE2304	14ft	100-300g	3	£126.99

### **SONIK** Black Shore Rods

**BEST SELLER**



The SKS Black Shore Rods bring the world of top end surf rods to a whole new accessible level.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
SO0244	Multiplier	12ft	4-6oz	2	£79.99
SO0245	Multiplier	13ft	4-6oz	2	£89.99
SO0246	Multiplier	14ft	5-7oz	2	£99.99
SO0360	Fixed Spool	12ft	4-6oz	2	£79.99
SO0361	Fixed Spool	13ft	4-6oz	2	£89.99
SO0362	Fixed Spool	14ft	5-7oz	2	£99.99

### **PENN** Rampage 2 Boat Rods

**SALE**

Engineered to be fished with braided fishing line, these rods can take the extra strain created by these hi-tech lines and will punish any fish.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PE1706	7ft8	12-20lb	4	£84.99	£50.00
PE1707	7ft6	20-30lb	4	£84.99	£50.00
PE1708	7ft4	30-50lb	4	£84.99	£50.00
PE1709	7ft4	50lb	2	£84.99	£70.00
PE1818	7ft6	12lb	2	£89.99	£54.00
PE1817	7ft6	20lb	2	£89.99	£54.00

### **AXIA** Full Monty Travel Beach Combo

This handy Travel Beach kit consists of:

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- Fish Eagle Tourney Shockleader
- Casting Torpedo x 5
- Fish Eagle Bait Elastic
- Stillwater Headlamp
- Tripod



IN0865

RRP: £165.42

**£89.99**

### **Shakespeare** Agility 2 Uptide, Beach & Bass



A fast taper, lightweight blank made from high grade carbon and designed to be held for long periods.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
SP3936	Salt Uptide	9ft 6	5-10oz	2	£75.00
SP3935	Exp. Beach	11ft 6	120-240g	5	£80.00
SP3934	Salt Bass	11ft	60-120g	5	£70.00

### **Shakespeare** Agility 2 Boat Salt Rod Series



These rods feature lightweight, fast actioned, yet powerful blanks designed to maximise bite detection.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
SP3940	Boat	7ft	20lb	2	£40.00
SP3941	Boat	7ft	30lb	2	£40.00
SP3944	Braid	8ft	20-30lb	2	£50.00
SP3945	Expedition	7ft	20-30lb	4	£50.00
SP3946	Expedition	7ft	20-50lb	4	£50.00

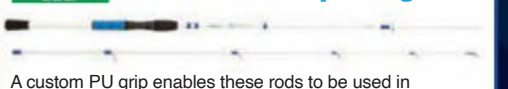
### **Shakespeare** Omni Mackerel Rod



Shakespeare's Omni Range is ideal for beginners and more experienced anglers alike. The Mackerel arriving in British waters is a sure sign of summer and these rods are superb for fishing feathers and baits off rock marks or piers on a sunny afternoon.

CODE	LENGTH	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SP3341	10ft	4-8oz	2	£34.99	£23.99

### **Shakespeare** Excursion Bass Spinning Rods



A custom PU grip enables these rods to be used in whatever conditions are thrown at you, especially on the shoreline. A white blank offers unparalleled bite indication and actions and lengths to cover all in-shore opportunities.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SP4200	8ft	Med 15-40g	2	£44.99	£24.00
SP4202	8ft	Heavy 30-60g	2	£44.99	£25.00
SP4203	9ft	Heavy 30-80g	2	£49.99	£30.00
SP4204	9ft	Med 15-45g	2	£49.99	£25.00

### **Shakespeare** Agility Luggage

- Packed with 20 separate resealable wallets.
- Adjustable zip extension system allowing the length to extend by 50cm if required for longer rods.
- Designed to be big enough to carry all the gear required, while remaining comfortable to carry.



CODE	MODEL	NOW
A SP3443	Rig Wallet	£16.00
B SP3441	Rucksack	£25.00
C SP3442	Quiver 145-190cm	£25.00

### **FISHEAGLE** Aberdeen Hook 9146

Sporting a strong yet fine wire with a micro barb, these hooks ensure maximum hooking ability. **100 per pack.**

CODE	SIZE	RRP	NOW
TA1812	4	£6.99	£3.99
TA1813	2	£6.99	£3.99
TA1814	1	£6.99	£3.99
TA1815	1/0	£7.99	£3.99
TA1816	2/0	£7.99	£3.99
TA1817	3/0	£8.99	£3.99
TA1818	4/0	£8.99	£4.99
TA1819	6/0	£11.99	£5.99



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### Shakespeare Firebird Mackerel Outfit

This superb 10ft 2pc rod casts 4-6oz, letting you throw out a feather rig and lead weight for targeting Mackerel, with plenty of power for the fight, and features a modern abbreviated EVA handle, cushioned DPS reel seat and Titanium Oxide insert double leg guides. The combo is completed with a Firebird 60FD reel, pre-spoiled with 20lb clear mono

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP3820	10ft	4-6oz	2	£39.99	£30.00

### Shakespeare Boat Outfit

This boat rod and reel combo is great value for money. Ideal for someone just starting fishing as it gives you a good chance to experience the thrill without a big bill. The reel is right hand wind and also loaded with 30lb line.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP4001	7ft	20-30lb	2	£49.99	£40.00

### Shakespeare Firebird Beachcaster Outfit

The Shakespeare Firebird Rod and Reel Combo is a 2 piece mid-action rod with a fixed spool reel that comes pre-spoiled with 20lb clear mono. Easy to put together and use, it's ideal for kids and beginner or intermediate anglers, or as an affordable backup or occasional use rod.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP3809	12ft	4-8oz	2	£49.99	£35.00

### Shakespeare Firebird Spinning Outfits

Designed to cover most UK light to medium spinning applications. The blanks are strong and slim at the price point with medium actions that will allow beginner and kids to cast easily. The reel is also loaded with 6lb line.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP3815	9ft	20-80g	2	£42.99	£25.00
SP3816	8ft	15-60g	2	£39.99	£24.00

### Abu Garcia Ambassadeur C 7000

The 7000 series from Abu Garcia has long been a mainstay for a wide variety of target species and methods, and now it's stronger and more ergonomic than ever.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	PRICE
PU4202	7000 RHW	230m/0.46mm	£137.99
PU4203	7001 LHW	230m/0.46mm	£137.99

### Shakespeare Agility HRF/LRF Rods

A new concept rod designed to work small lures and jig heads up to 40gms from boats targeting smaller ground dwelling species such as wrasse, small pollack, cod, coalfish, gurnards, bream, plaice, haddock and whiting.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SP3484	6ft 7	0.5-7g	2	£28.00
SP3485	7ft	5-15g	2	£30.00

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SP3948	8ft	10-20g	2+2	£40.00
SP3949	8ft 6	20-40g	2+2	£40.00

### Shakespeare Omni Surf Rods

Shakespeare's great value Omni range is ideal for beginners and more experienced anglers alike, these rods maximise performance and quality at this key Shakespeare price point.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP3994	10ft	4-6oz	3	£39.99	£30.00
SP3995	12ft	4-6oz	3	£49.99	£40.00
SP3996	12ft	4-6oz	3	£49.99	£40.00

### SHIMANO STC Rods

The STC Boat rods are the ultimate sea spinning rods and cater for both shore and boat fishing situations.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SU12363	Travel Spin	8ft 2	14-40g	6	£164.99
SU12364	Travel Spin	8ft 2	50-100g	6	£174.99
SU12344	Travel Spin	8ft 10	50-100g	5	£134.99
SU14275	Boat Spin	8ft	150-300g	4	£134.99
SU12365	Shore Boat	9ft 10	150-300g	4+2	£184.99

### TFGear Force8 Competition Tripod

- Fully extended fishing height nearly 8ft
- V shaped main leg
- Round legs fold and clip into main frame
- Fully adjustable butt cap rod rest
- Inbuilt trace hanger hooks and center hook for luggage/buckets
- Pack down height of 6ft
- Weight 2.8kg

AF5248  
RRP: £59.99

£40

### FISHEAGLE Saracen Mackerel Outfit

- Fisheagle Saracen Mackerel Rod 11ft 1-3oz 2pc
- Fisheagle Q8 Surf Reel loaded with Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet and 10 Assorted Bait Rigs

U117FSH  
RRP: £89.97

£34.99

### FISHEAGLE Saracen Complete Beach

- Fisheagle Saracen 12ft 2pc Beachcaster Casts 2-4oz
- Fisheagle Q8 8000 Surfcasting Fixed Spool Reel
- Reel is Loaded with with 20lb Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet with 10 Popular assorted Ready Tied Bait Beach rigs
- Spool of 40lb Powerstorm Vi Vis Shockleader

RE0721  
RRP: £98.96

£49.99

### FISHEAGLE Saracen Beachcaster Outfit

- Fisheagle Saracen Beachcaster 13ft 4-8oz 3pc Rod
- Shakespeare Agility Surf 70 Reel
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet and 10 Assorted Bait Rigs
- Lureflash Powerstorm Monofilament

U116FSH  
RRP: £171.96

£89.99

### TEAM DAIWA Seat Boxes

Daiwa have released a seatbox that is ideal for carrying all your tackle in one place. The boxes are designed to be both light and strong.

CODE	COLOUR	SIZE	PRICE
DW0083	Yellow/Black	35 x 22 x 38cm	£47.99
DW2532	Black	54 x 37 x 44cm	£59.00

### DAIWA J-Braid Grand

Introducing J-BRAID x8 GRAND, the new Ultimate Braid in Daiwa's J-Braid Family. Strong, and resistant to abrasion yet well-bodied enough to lay smoothly on the spool.

11LB 0.06MM	15LB 0.10MM	19LB 0.13MM	35LB 0.20MM	RRP	NOW
DW9823	DW9824	DW9825	DW9828	£47.99	£20

43LB 0.22MM	49LB 0.24MM	58LB 0.28MM	79LB 0.35MM	RRP	NOW
DW9829	DW9830	DW9831	DW9832	£47.99	£20

### RONTHOMPSON Hyper 4-Braid

- 4-braid construction
- No stretch
- High linear strength

110m / Grey

CODE	B/S	RRP	NOW
SV20244	10lb	£9.99	£6.00
SV20245	15lb	£9.99	£6.00
SV20246	18lb	£9.99	£6.00
SV20247	20lb	£9.99	£6.00
SV20248	22lb	£9.99	£6.00
SV20249	25lb	£9.99	£6.00

### IRONXPERO Guerilla Beachcaster Rods

A well priced continental rod that packs a punch at a price everybody can afford. Ideally suited to fishing clean beaches when targeting species such as flounder, whiting, plaice and dogfish.

CODE	LENGTH	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
TX7658	13ft 6	100-200g	2	£89.99
TX7656	13ft 7	100-200g	3	£91.99
TX7657	14ft 7	100-200g	3	£97.99

### WESTIN Salty Lures

This bestselling Westin lure has it all.

COLOUR	7CM / 12G	9CM / 18G	11CM / 26G
Canned Sardine	WN2086	WN2104	WN2122
GFR	WN2088	WN2106	WN2124
Dotted Sardine	WN2089	WN2107	WN2125
Diamond Thief	WN2090	WN2108	WN2126
Pattegrisen	WN2093	WN2111	WN2129
3D Yellow Ayu	WN3177	WN3184	WN3191
3D Brown Headlight	WN3178	WN3185	WN3192
3D Sparkling Herring	WN3179	WN3186	WN3193
UV Hottie Pearl	WN3180	WN3187	WN3194
PRICE	£5.99	£6.50	£6.99

FULL RANGE  
AVAILABLE ON  
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### FISHEAGLE Hunt Lures

The all-new Fisheagle Hunt Lures are deadly for all salt and freshwater fish.

COLOUR	28G 12CM	43G 14CM
Green/Silver	TA2529	TA2534
Fluro/Green/Yellow	TA2530	TA2535
Fluro/Red/Black	TA2531	TA2536
Black Pearl	TA2532	TA2537
Silver Pearl	TA2533	TA2538
RRP	£4.99	£5.50
PRICE	£2.99	£3.50

### SAVAGE GEAR Sandeel V2 2+1 Pack

This super realistic sandeel imitation will fool even the wariest of predator fish.

COLOUR	12CM 22G	14CM 33G	15.5CM 46G	17.5CM 65G
Green Silver	SV23661	SV23667	SV23673	SV23679
Khaki	SV23662	SV23668	SV23674	SV23680
White Pearl Silver	SV23663	SV23669	SV23675	SV23681
Blue Pearl Silver	SV23664	SV23670	SV23676	SV23682
Lemon Back	SV23665	SV23671	SV23677	SV23683
Pink Pearl Silver	SV23666	SV23672	SV23678	SV23684
PRICE	£7.99	£8.99	£9.99	£10.99

EVEN MORE V2 LURES AVAILABLE ONLINE!

### SAVAGE GEAR 3D Line Thru Sandeel Lures

A 3D Scan of a real sandeel, has provided the perfect details and body shape for this great line-thru hard lure!

CODE	LEN	WGT	COLOUR	RRP	NOW
SV22056	125mm	19g	Brown Ghost	£10.99	£4.00
SV26487	150mm	27g	Black & Red UV	£14.99	£4.00
SV26488	150mm	27g	Black Silver	£14.99	£4.00
SV26489	150mm	27g	Brown Ghost	£14.99	£4.00

### SAVAGE GEAR Sandeel Pencil Lures

Extreme long cast design for amazing coverage. Supplied with both a single and a treble hook, with the option to add the treble hook to the belly as well.

COLOUR	9CM 13G	15CM 30G
Sandeel	SV21960	SV21522
Sandeel Ghost	SV21961	SV21523
Black Silver	SV21962	SV21524
Motor Oil UV	SV21963	SV21525
Black&Red UV	SV21964	SV21526
Matt White Tobis	SV21965	SV21527
RRP	£8.99	£10.99
PRICE	£7.99	£9.99

COLOUR	9CM 13G	12.5CM 19G	15CM 30G
Black Copper UV	SV21966	SV21528	-
Blue Silver UV	SV21967	SV21529	-
Matte White	SV23235	SV23240	SV23245
Black Pearl	SV23236	SV23241	SV23246
Lemon Back	SV23237	SV23242	SV23247
Cotton Candy	SV23238	SV23243	SV23248
Sayoris	SV23239	SV23244	SV23249
PRICE	£7.99	£9.99	£10.99

### SAVAGE GEAR 3D Line Thru Sandeel Lures

A 3D Scan of a real sandeel, has provided the perfect details and body shape for this great line-thru hard lure!

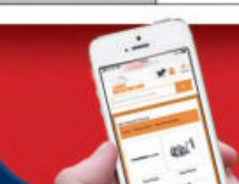
COLOUR	8.5CM 11G	11CM 15G	12.5CM 19G	15CM 27G
Sandeel	SV19558	SV19016	SV17836	-
Sandeel Ghost	SV19559	SV19017	SV17837	SV17843
Motoroil UV	SV19560	SV19019	SV17841	SV17847
Black & Red UV	SV19561	SV19020	SV19353	-
Black N Yellow Glow	SV19562	SV19354	SV19350	SV19352
Black Ghost	-	-	SV17839	SV17845
Gold Pout	SV20550	-	SV20560	-
Pink Pout	SV20552	-	SV20562	-
Matt White Tobis	-	-	SV19349	SV19351
RRP	£8.99	£9.99	£11.99	£14.99
PRICE	£7.99	£8.99	£9.99	£12.99



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# FIRST LOOK

Your update on the latest gear arriving in the tackle shops

## GEOFF ANDERSON: HOODY3

Hoody3 is a fleece jacket manufactured in a unique four-way stretchable fabric with strength properties that consistently recover their original form after being pushed and pulled during activity. The material absorbs and spreads moisture, thereby intensifying evaporation, which means you will not cool down and the jacket will dry faster. You will love the comfort regardless of activity level. Cosy warmth, moisture management, elastic seams, is the recipe for a jacket that balances protection, comfort and durability.

- Reinforced pocket lining
- Salt water-resistant design
- YKK® Zippers
- 3 pockets with zipper
- Non-toxic
- 4-way stretchable material
- Warm - even when it is soaked
- Wind-repellent on the chest
- Very breathable
- Large content of recyclable materials
- Half Glove
- Flat elastic seams
- Designed in Denmark
- RRP: £170



## PENN RIG WALLET

The PENN Rig Wallet is a velcro secured neoprene rig wallet that incorporates 12 removable wallets to secure your rigs. The large and removable compartments are self-sealing, making sure that they will not fall out.

- 500D Fabric with PVC coating
- Velcro secured
- Including 12 removable wallets
- Self-sealing zip sliders
- RRP £41.99



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#### RATING SYSTEM

Our testers and reviewers use their experience to evaluate the quality and functionality of tackle to provide independent, credible and authoritative advice for our readers. On some pages, you may see the following endorsements

**SeaAngler**  
**EXPERT**  
**CHOICE**

Tackle which our testers or reviewers recommend to our audience.

**SeaAngler**  
**BEST**  
**BUY**

Tackle we believe is the best when tested or reviewed against direct competitor products.

**SeaAngler**  
**★★★★★**  
**5 STAR**

Some products reviewed will be awarded a star rating ranging from 0-5.

## UNIBANK

The Unibank is a portable power bank which has a hugely appealing point of difference – it can be charged manually by pulling on a retractable cord (90 seconds of pulling will give the bank enough power to then charge a phone, via a USB cable, with enough energy for a 25-minute call). It also boasts an extremely useful built in LED torch so impeding darkness is never an issue or reason to stop fishing. There are optional attachments which include a Bluetooth speaker, a panic alarm, and a GPS tracker, all of which are operated via a smartphone app.

- Unique pull & powercharger
- Can also be charged by USB
- Built in LED torch LED power indicators

Choice of four attachments

- Protective silicone jacket
- Free app for iOS and Android
- High grade components
- RRP: £89.95



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SMOOTHOUNDS,  
POLLACK AND  
MANY MORE





# SUFFIX 832

Henry Gilbey knows a thing or two about braided line. So if you are looking for a good value, hard-wearing, 8-strand braid, hear's the answer

## SPECIFICATIONS

- Spool Length: 120m
- Colour: Low-viz green/ neon lime
- Strands: 8 with 7 HMPE  
plus 1 GORE® Performance Fiber
- 8.2kg 18.1lbs - 0.13mm
- 9.2kg 20.3lbs - 0.15mm
- 12.0kg 26.5lbs - 0.18mm
- RRP from £22.49





**T**he braid market for us lure anglers is changing fairly rapidly for the better, and we should all be jumping for joy. No more do we need to pay silly money to fill our spinning reels up with high quality 8-strand braids, and for that I must give a lot of credit to Daiwa and their brilliant and aggressively priced J-Braid which came onto the market fairly recently. But there are other braids out there at similar prices which are just as good. I do love lure fishing with those ultra smooth, Japanese style 8-strand braids. They are so thin and they cut through wind and current incredibly well. Of course, that level of finesse comes with a lessening of abrasion resistance and perhaps overall toughness, and as much as I like these sorts of braids, there are plenty of occasions when I want a mainline that is a little bit tougher, but without resorting to one of the thicker 4-strand braids. But does such a line exist?

Well it does, and it is called Sufix 832. Over the last few years I have fished a lot with this braid and as much as I enjoy trying other lines out, I keep coming back to it. Why? Because it's incredibly strong, it knots well, I never get any problems on the casting front, and in the words of the guy who actually owns the line company Sufix, "The problem we have with 832 is that it lasts too long". Now I like the sound of that!

This is what Sufix says about their 832 braid: "832 Advanced Superline has 8 fibers (7 HMPE fibers plus 1 GORE Performance Fiber) and 32 weaves per inch. GORE Performance Fibers improve abrasion resistance, increase casting distance & accuracy and reduce line vibration. HMPE fibers provide high strength & sensitivity, hydrophobic water-repellent protection and small diameter". While I can indeed get my head around this kind of technical information, to be honest I simply base my opinions on whether a line works when I am out in the real world, as in actually fishing with it.



On that basis, I can't fault Sufix 832 one single bit. Seriously; put a well tied FG knot in there to your leader and I defy you to break the 20lb 832 to a 20lb leader in your hands. Indeed, I would advise against trying to do so because of the risk of the thin braid slicing into your fingers! Sufix 832 is available in a wide variety of breaking strains and colours, and I tend to

mostly use the bright yellow and green versions in the 0.13mm/8.2kg (about 18lb), 0.15mm/9.2kg (about 20lb), and then the slightly thicker 0.18mm/12.0kg (about 26lb) for wrasse fishing when, as we know, the ground tends to get extremely gnarly. You won't go wrong with this braid and I am really pleased to see it properly available here in the UK. ■







# SEADRA NIMBUS SLOW JIGS

Dave Lewis has a flutter on these new well designed and attractive slow pitch jigs and recommends they make it into your lure selection for both UK and overseas jigging sessions



**D**esigned specifically with cod in mind, Seadra Nimbus Slow Jigs are the result of two years of extensive field testing in the English Channel. Beautifully finished to a very high standard, the range consists of two popular and proven colours, holo pink and rhubarb & custard, both available in either 160g or 200g.

Each lure comes ready rigged with a pair of perfectly matched, corrosion-resistant, assist hooks mounted on what appears to be kevlar braid. The hooks are attached to a solid stainless steel ring, which is in turn attached to the lure via a stainless steel split ring. The leader, either fluorocarbon or monofilament, at the end of your (usually braided) line, is tied directly to the solid ring forming an incredibly strong link between leader and hooks. Using this system makes it possible to change lures without cutting the leader by using a suitable pair of split ring pliers to remove the existing lure from the split ring, then attach the new one.

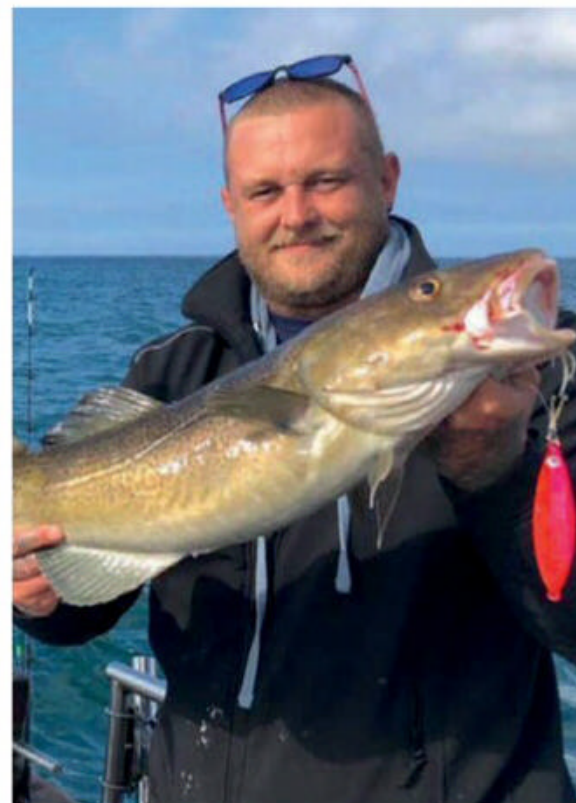
A prerequisite of all slow pitch rigs is for the lure to have an inherent, built-in action, resulting in the tantalising fluttering display that so many different

species of fish find absolutely irresistible. These beautiful lures can boast exactly that. While they might have been designed with cod in mind, Seadra Nimbus jigs are undoubtedly going to prove to be hugely effective for numerous other UK species, notably bass, pollack and coalfish. If you are travelling to either Norway or Iceland to fish, then I strongly recommend you pack a few of these.

Seadra Jigs have also been trialed in the tropics, notably in Panama where they have accounted for trophy sized cubera snapper and roosterfish. Certainly, mine are destined for a trip to Central America in a few months time, along with anywhere else in the world where I intend to fish jigs. ■

## SPECIFICATIONS

■ **Seadra Nimbus Slow Jigs retail for £10.99 for the 160g size to 11.99 for the 200g. To order or for more information visit [www.veals.co.uk](http://www.veals.co.uk)**









# ROLLUP, ROLLUP

Henry Gilbey reviews this hard-wearing and practical piece of kit that will keep your valuables safe and dry, even if you aren't!

**I** do a lot of bass fishing tackle development work with Savage Gear these days. However, interestingly, this Waterproof Rollup Rucksack was developed way before I ever started doing anything with them. Because I am always carrying camera gear with me when I go fishing, I am bound to use some kind of rucksack, and with the sort of unpredictable weather we get in the UK and Ireland it makes perfect sense that the rucksack I carry be waterproof.

As a result, I have a lot of experience with various waterproof rucksacks, from very expensive and specialist camera bags which have been on my back in the tropics as I have swum from reef to reef with sharks swimming below me, through to something pretty cheap like this 40-litre rollup rucksack. There are a lot of these rolltop style waterproof rucksacks on the market and I like to think that I know a lot about their various strengths and weaknesses. A rolltop-style waterproof rucksack is not designed for total immersion, but when you roll that top down and secure it, nothing inside your bag should get wet. Some of them are more comfortable to carry than others – the Overboard bags are particularly easy to wear. With what I do and where I use a rucksack, I would expect the bottom of the bag to wear through after a year or so of hard use; putting the bag down on all kinds of surfaces when I am fishing. Once the bottom

of a rolltop waterproof rucksack goes it's time to buy a new one.

Two years on and this Savage Gear Waterproof Rollup Rucksack 40L has really surprised me – the bottom of the bag hasn't yet failed on me. It will eventually, but from a lot of time and experience I am rather pleased how this rucksack is working out for me. From a practical point of view I find it pretty comfortable to walk long distances with it on my back, once you get used to the slightly narrower spread of the shoulder straps. The reflective strip on the front of the bag has saved my bacon a few times when I have put the bag down at night and moved around a lot. The see-through pocket on the front of the rucksack doesn't really work because the zip is pretty useless, but the rucksack as a whole is brilliant. I can fit everything I might need at different times of year inside the bag and everything stays nice and dry if I do the top of the bag up properly.

At the end of the day this is a simple item of fishing tackle which I can't do without and is a whole lot better than I initially thought it might be. It's also very good value for money and is a good bag to use if you don't need to carry much stuff but you want to keep it dry and out of the way. ■

Available from [www.savage-gear.com](http://www.savage-gear.com)



Waterproof PVC 500D TARPULIN



Adjustable and ergonomic carry straps

**WP ROLLUP RUCKSACK**  
RRP: £49.99

**SeaAngler**  
**EXPERT**  
**CHOICE**



# A GOOD READ

Sea Fishing Knots & Rigs, by Andy Steer

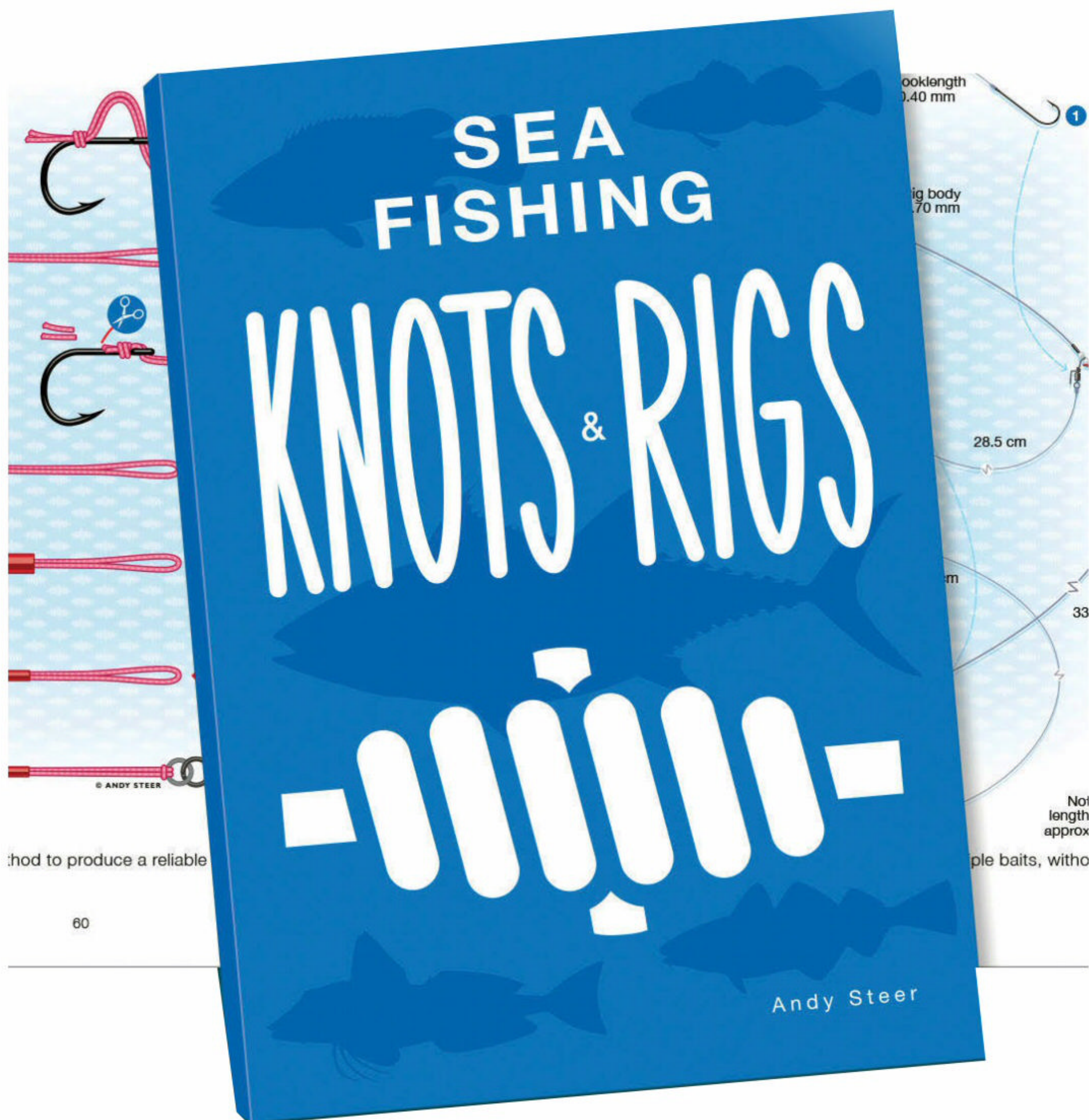
**S**ea Angler readers will be familiar with Andy Steer's rig and knot illustrations which have featured in the 'rig' page of Sea Angler along with easy-to-follow instructions on how to tie each rig or knot. All these, plus many more, have been brought together into a

new book which is packed with 80 pages of knots and rigs to help you discover and improve your skills in sea angling.

Perfect for your bookcase, tackle box or wheelhouse the book covers knots and rigs for every type of sea angling, from targeting shore mini species to tackling offshore pelagic fish like sharks and tuna.

It features clear, concise, step-by-step illustrations and instructions that will help you increase your number of reliable, tried and tested knots and rigs which will help you land more fish, and help you lose less tackle in the process.

■ Available from Amazon at £12.95 in paperback or £4.95 in the kindle edition.





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# THE FMPs ARE COMING!

*A new bass fishery management plan is in the pipeline as a result of Brexit and the new UK Fisheries Act. How will it impact angling, how can you get involved and will anglers really have any say over how fish stocks are managed?*



**The size of bass that many anglers hope to catch. The Bass FMP needs to focus on restoring bass stocks and providing the best economic value, which sea angling can provide**

**T**hat's not the title of a 1950s B movie by the way, but Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) which will be arriving in the near future and before we know it, we anglers will be involved in deciding how they will work. In fact, we already are.

As a consequence of leaving the EU (Brexit), the Government has brought into law the Fisheries Act 2020 and later announced that FMPs would be the next step towards the UK becoming an independent maritime state – what was commonly referred to as "taking back

control of our waters" during the pre-Brexit debates. As a result, we can now decide how to manage the fish stocks that swim in our seas, rather than be controlled by the EU. That sounds simple enough, but many of those fish swim outside of UK territorial waters, so to a degree, the EU will still have some influence over 'our' fish.

Among the first FMPs to be announced and up for discussion will be one for bass, with a draft Bass FMP now expected to be released in early 2023 for public consultation and finalised during 2023. In the meantime there

will be meetings and forums held with interested parties, by a government consultancy group called Policy Lab and we anglers will have the opportunity to get involved and have our say, as will other bass fishery stakeholders – a method known as 'co-design' where policy makers, fishery managers and stakeholders (such as anglers) work together on the design of the management plans.

Here is a brief summary of what BASS and our campaigning arm Save Our Sea Bass (SOSB) has been doing and what you can do to help.



## COLLABORATING WITH THE ANGLING TRUST

There was a meeting with the Policy Lab team in early May as part of initial stakeholder discussions to develop the Bass FMP. Some of you may have seen the press release put out by the AT in late May in which it was announced:

It's a new dawn for UK fisheries management with a new Fisheries Act (2020) and the government's stated ambition for our fisheries to be 'World Class'. This is an exciting yet challenging time for sea anglers, who were finally recognised as stakeholders within the Fisheries Act 2020.

The Bass FMP will be one of the first to be developed – a so-called “frontrunner”. Bass is an important species to many recreational sea anglers, and bass angling is a valuable part of the social and economic contribution that sea angling makes to coastal communities. With bass stocks still in poor shape, the government must seize this opportunity to develop an ambitious fishery management plan that maximises socio-economic benefits, whilst securing the health of the stock for future generations.

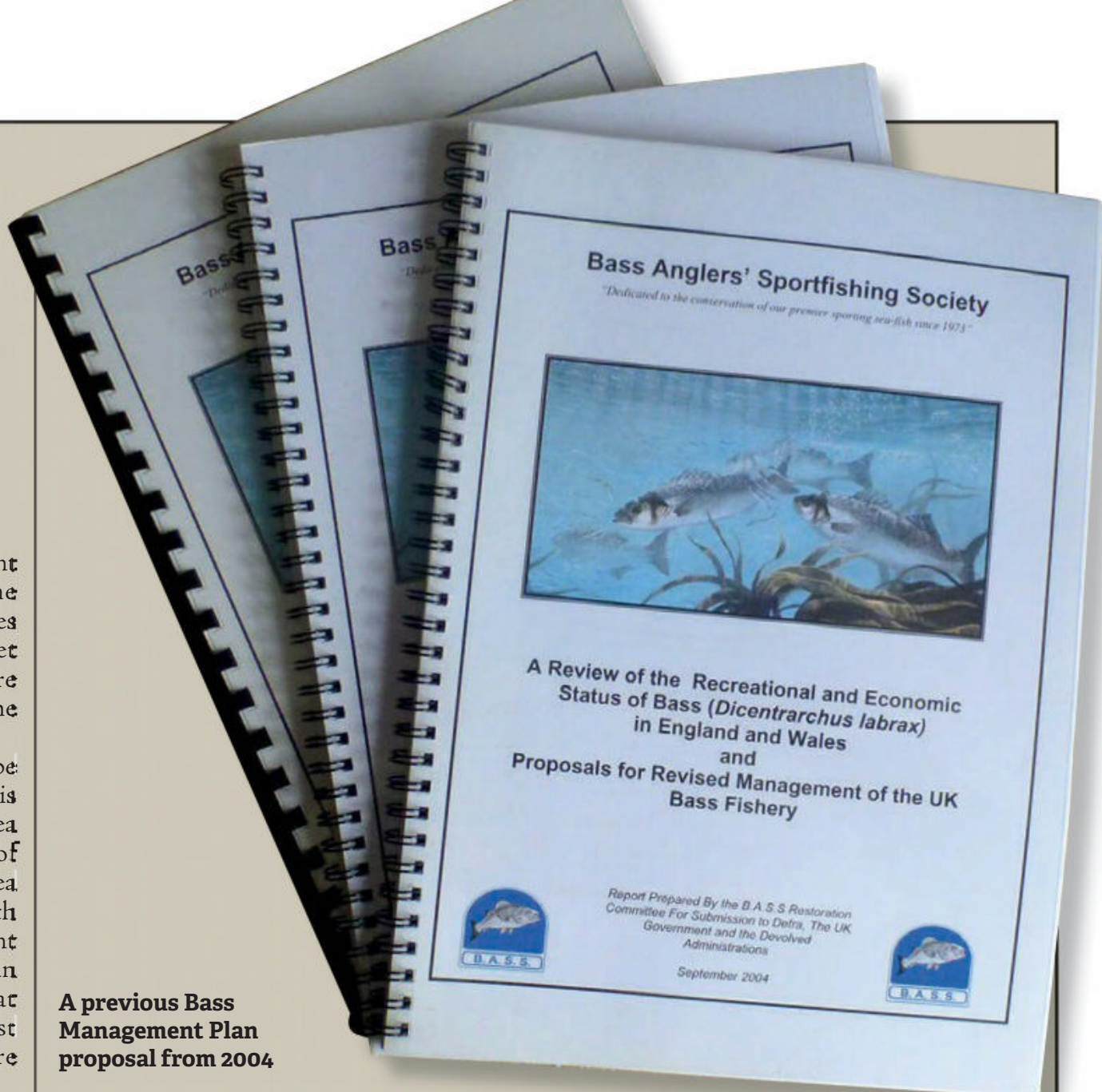
Hannah Rudd of the Angling Trust said, “If the government is truly willing to act on the recommendations of stakeholders engaging in the co-design process, this potentially represents a once in a lifetime opportunity to get a bass fishery that maximises the socio-economic benefits of the fishery for all society and prioritises improving bass stocks for a sustainable future. We will do everything we can to help achieve this outcome. The government must be ambitious – business-as-usual should not be an option.”

The first collaborative meeting with Angling Trust also took place in early May, with the objective to have a significant input to the Bass FMP Co-design workshops and to scope out the best way forward. Fisheries consultant Dr Simon Thomas (part-funded by BASS) was among the other attendees and regular meetings will be held from now on.

Not only will BASS write a formal response document to substantiate a 'More and Bigger Bass' strategy for the fishery, but other actions were agreed too. These included – monitoring Regional Fisheries Groups (RFGs), engaging with MPs and being prepared for even existing bass management measures to be challenged by some commercial fishermen.

There was broad agreement that a collaborative approach, rather than an confrontational campaign, would win the day.

David Curtis of Save Our Sea Bass (the campaigning arm of BASS) said, “We hope that government is genuinely open to an ambitious overhaul of the bass fishery. This will take a lot of work and time and the process must take this into account. If the Bass FMP is done well it will result in a healthy bass fishery with more and bigger bass, maximising the benefits for bass anglers and society as a whole”.



**A previous Bass Management Plan proposal from 2004**

## THE VALUE OF BASS FISHING

One important aspect of our joint campaigning will be to stress the importance of recreational bass anglers to the UK economy, estimated at between €188 and €282 million and the enormous potential for growth. Sea anglers are the largest stakeholder in the UK bass fishery by participation and socio-economic benefit. Our sport is worth an astonishing 35 - 53 times more financially than commercial bass fishing at €5.3 million\*.

This is where sea anglers' support and participation in research schemes such as the Sea Anglers' Diary project, run by Cefas (an executive agency of Defra) will prove invaluable, so thank you to all of the anglers who have taken part and continue to do so.

The figures are staggering, in that the estimated total economic impact of sea angling in the UK is nearly £2 billion (€2.35 billion) and over 16,000 jobs are supported by sea angling activity.

## STAKEHOLDER RESEARCH

Part of Policy Lab's research process is to gather 'lived experiences' from those with commercial and recreational bass fishing knowledge. A good number of recreational sea anglers have already volunteered to be part of the research process and you can participate to by sharing your experiences by contacting Policy Lab. The Angling Trust

has also announced that Policy Lab will be participating in one of its on line angling forums, scheduled to take place on 23rd June. For further information on how to participate in the Policy Lab lived experience project and the angling forum please check out the AT's website at [www.anglingtrust.net](http://www.anglingtrust.net).

Steve Pitts, chairman of BASS said, “We are pleased to see that Defra have committed to ensuring that the Bass FMP is a co-design project, that if correctly implemented, will reject the 'do nothing' option of simply rolling over the current set of bass regulations.

Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the founding of BASS. Let's hope we can celebrate that occasion with a Bass FMP that paves the way to a world-class healthy and sustainable bass fishery, that maximises the benefits to our coastal communities and provides great bass fishing for sea anglers.”

*\*UK commercial bass first landing values in 2018 calculated to be €5.3 million (1 per cent of total catch value) UK recreational angling expenditure on bass fishing calculated to be between €188 and €282 million.*

Source: The European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products – Commercial and Recreational Fisheries for Wild Seabass in the Atlantic–Economic and Market Study. November 2021



**Keep up to date with BASS through its blog on [www.ukbass.com](http://www.ukbass.com) or on Facebook or Twitter.**



# BOAT STORE

The latest gear and technology for boat-owning anglers

## BOAT EXPO LIVE

Head south west to Portland Marina later this summer for a new boat show



**P**ortland Marina in Dorset will host a brand-new boat show this summer. Boat Expo Live will take place from August 4th to 7th in Osprey Quay around the waters of Portland and Weymouth, well known

as one of the hotspots of boat angling activity around the coast of the UK with numerous charter boats and many thousands of private angling boats fishing the waters every year. As a result, the new show is ideally located for new and experienced boat anglers and at a venue with great facilities and that is a fully operational marina.

The expo is aimed at leisure boating enthusiasts who have a passion for powerboats, cruising, or sailing, as well as those looking to buy a boat. This promises to be a great event for those who have a passion for boat fishing and

are looking to buy, are already on the water, always wanted to try, want to brush up on skills or just looking for a bit of fun!

The event will be free to enter and there is plenty of car parking available on-site and at the neighbouring Chesil beach car parks, a 3-minute walk away. Public transport: there is a regular bus service from Weymouth BR to the Osprey Quay.

■ Portland Marina, Osprey Quay, 6 Hamm Beach Road, Portland, Dorset, DT5 1DX

■ Website [www.boatexpolive.com](http://www.boatexpolive.com)







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**As summer holiday season kicks into full swing Sea Angler has teamed up with Daiwa to offer one lucky reader the chance to win a lure fishing travel set-up**



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£400**

One lucky winner will receive a Saltist Travel Spin rod worth £210. This 8ft five-piece rod is perfect for packing down and taking on holiday with you this summer. It is fitted with high quality Fuji 'O' ring guides and features Daiwa's X45 technology which diminishes power loss caused by rod twist to the minimum and enhances toughness and responsiveness.

The Saltist Travel Spin comes paired with a Daiwa BG300 Spinning reel which features carbon drag washers, an aluminium body, a graphite Air Rotor, machine-cut handle, Twistbuster technology, infinite anti reverse and auto bail.

Load onto the BG reel a brand new 150 spool of chartreuse Daiwa J-Braid x8 and Prorex fluorocarbon leader. You'll also take home a water resistant Daiwa Sand Storm Roto Rucksack and a stylish black and red Daiwa baseball cap to keep the summer sun out of your eyes.

**Don't miss out on the chance to win this fantastic prize. Simply enter free online at**

# [www.seaangler.co.uk/win](http://www.seaangler.co.uk/win)

Terms and conditions: Entries close at 23.59 on 22/07/2022 and the winners will be drawn on 04/08/2022. The winner will be notified within 28 days of the close of entries. The draw is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Entry is free. Open to residents of the UK aged over 18. Employees of Kelsey Media and their family members are not eligible to win. Only one entry permitted per person, no bulk entries will be accepted. There is no cash alternative and the prize is not transferable. If any prize or product is lost or damaged during the course of delivery to the recipient, Kelsey Media will provide reasonable assistance in seeking to resolve the problem. However, it will not always be possible to obtain replacements for lost or damaged goods, and in that event, no financial compensation would be payable by Kelsey Media or their affiliates. We reserve the right to cancel the competition, if circumstances change that are beyond our control. By entering you agree to be bound by all the rules and agree that your surname and country may be published if you win.





# SEA LEAGUE

The latest results from Britain's biggest event for shore match anglers

## 29: FLAT FISH OPEN, HYTHE, 12 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Mark Rogers, Maidstone, 47 points; 2nd Steve Swan, 24 points; 3rd Mick Tappsell, 23 points. Longest fish: Mark Rogers, founder, 27cm.

## 28: NORTH WALES TEAMS OF FIVE AND OPEN, PWLLHELI, 45 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Tony Bob, Holyhead (4); Joe Jones, Holyhead, (Not registered); Steve Bonner, Wallasey (2). Zone winners: Colin Dunn Conway; Danny Parker, Wallasey; Jimmy Price, Abergele – all (1).

## 28: REELFUN LEAGUE AND OPEN SERIES, ROUND 3, LITTLETON, 39 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Andy Masden, 8lb 2oz, (Not registered); 2nd James Masden, Clevedon, 3lb 4oz (2); 3rd Pete Evans, Swansea, 2lb 10oz (2).

## 28: SOUTHERN LEAGUE ROUND 5 OF 12 & OPEN, LEE ON SOLENT, 57 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Ian Ellis, 32lb 3oz, (not registered); 2nd Dan Mogridge, Portsmouth, 25lb 14oz (4); Darren Newlands, Ryde, 17lb 6oz (3). Biggest fish: smoothhound, 8lb 6oz, landed by Ian Ellis.

## 28: LINCOLNSHIRE OPEN, SANDILANDS, 25 anglers.

A strong north-east wind and building sea made for some really tough conditions especially early on but in the end, some good fish were landed. There was some fish early with Matt Currie landing a nice 51cm bass. However, it soon became clear the middle pegs were the place to be with Wayne Leason, Ben Laws and George Smith battling away catching a variety of fish. The biggest bass pool was changing hands all day, George, Denis Brozych and Docker Drayton landed a 57cm bass only to be pipped by Ben with a 58cm, then Wayne with a 60cm. However, the best was saved to last when Brett Bartram landed the bass of the day, a 68cm beauty. There was only one junior, young Rex, and it was a super hard day for him but he managed two whiting to still manage to beat a few senior anglers. Well done Rex. There were nine species caught: dogs, bass, flounder, dab, tope, hound, turbot, eel and whiting. It was superb advert for the Lincolnshire coast.

■ **Result:** 1st Wayne Leason, Hull, 12 fish, 15lb 14oz (2); 2nd George Smith, Grimsby, 12 fish, 10lb 7oz (1); 3rd Ben Laws, 9 fish, 9lb 6oz. Top junior: Rex Taylor, 2 fish, 12oz.

## 28-29: PRESTON TWO DAY OPEN, 22 anglers.

The north-east match team arrived in force for this year's Preston 2-day river match. Although the number of anglers was down on previous year due to a match clash and

travel costs, the anglers who made the journey were rewarded with some decent bass and flounder fishing.

### ■ **Result:**

Day 1 - Zone A: 1st Nicky Robson, 458cm; 2nd Peter Wilkinson, 415cm; 3rd David G Hutchinson, 338cm.

Zone B: 1st Steve Potts, 599cm; 2nd Neil Cutler, 468cm; 3rd Neil Wilkinson, 410cm.

Day 2 - Zone A: 1st Neil Cutler, 434; 2nd Steve Potts, 393; 3rd Tony Baxter, 317cm

Zone B: 1st Tommy Tate, 415cm; 2nd Gareth Gardiner, 308cm; 3rd Gav Owen, 295cm.

With both Steve and Neil tied on three points, it went to count back on fish points, with Steve Potts running out the winner.

Overall Result: 1st Steve Potts, Gosforth, 3 points, 992cm, (4); 2nd Neil Cutler, Gateshead, 3 points, 902cm (3); 3rd Gav Owen, Consett, 7 points (2). Zone winners: Nicky Robson, Wallsend (1); Tommy Tate, Sunderland (1). Longest fish: 52cm Bass, David G Hutchinson, Morecombe (1).

## 22: SCOTTISH FEDERATION OF SEA ANGLERS, ROUND 3 LUNAN, 40 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Neil Cutler, Gateshead, 15 fish, 333cm (4); 2nd Steve Serghine, Dunfermline, 8 fish, 179cm (not registered); 3rd Jimmy Malcolm, Arbroath, 3 fish, 86cm (not registered). Longest fish: Alan Haggon, Edinburgh, and Chris Barrett, Edinburgh, 36cm (not registered).

## 22: NORTH WEST ASSOCIATION OF SEA ANGLERS, ROCK CHANNEL, 38 Anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Joe Perry, Liverpool, 25 fish, 688cm (3); 2nd John Waugh, Wallasey, 21 fish, 655cm (2); 3rd Jim Morris, Chester, 13 fish, 394cm (2). Longest fish, Stephen Nicholson, plaice 42cm.

## 22: SAMF GB SUMMER LEAGUE, EAST HALTON, 30 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Tony Burman, Cleethorpes, 21 fish, 412cm (3); 2nd Karl Wiepcke, 16 fish, 355cm (2); 3rd Scott Richardson, 15 fish, 345cm (2). Top junior was Rex Taylor, 8 fish, 227cm. Biggest fish was a 35cm flounder landed by Rex.

## 21: MARYPORT & DISTRICT SAC OPEN, 51 anglers

Twenty-nine competitors weighed in 32 fish for a total weight of 55lb 9¼oz including 12 dogfish, 9 plaice, 7 bass, 2 flounder, 1 cod, 1 thornback ray.

■ **Result:** 1st Luke Holliday, Workington, plaice; 1lb 5¼oz (not registered); 2nd John Dixon, Maryport, flounder; 1lb 4½oz (not registered); 3rd Ben Shepherd, Maryport, flounder; 1lb 4¼oz (3). The winning junior was Jay Stoker, Dumfries, dogfish, 1lb-15¼oz.

## 21: IPSWICH SEA ANGLERS SUMMER OPEN, RIVER ALDE, 22 anglers

New venue for an open and probably first time anyone has held a match on this stretch of river. No one had any idea how it would fish, if it was snaggy, the best stretch to fish or even what we would catch.

On a lovely evening 22 anglers started in close, some mid-range and others risked it and cast out into the channel. From the start it was clear fishing was going to be good and mid and further range was the order of the day with dogs and hounds coming out first cast. In the end, there was plenty of dogs, small hounds, eels, whiting, decent rays, a few bass and a couple of soles caught. Biggest round was a cracking ray of 55cm across the wings for Rob Tuck, with Chris Spall landing the flatfish prize with a 32cm sole.

■ **Result:** 1st Rob Tuck, Holland on Sea, 7 fish, for 729 points (2); 2nd Cameron Turner, Felixstowe, 12 fish, for 599 points (1); 3rd Craig Buy, 9 fish, for 589 points. Top Junior was Sophie Cossey with 5 fish for 113 points.

## 15: SAMF GB SUMMER LEAGUE, HUMBERSTONE CREEK, 20 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Karl Wiepcke, 26 fish, 683cm (2); 2nd Tony Burman, Cleethorpes, 13 fish 376cm (1); 3rd Danny Finch, 13 fish, 347cm.

## 15: GWENT SAC OPEN, ST BRIDES, 97 anglers.

Gwent SAC held their annual open event at St Brides, Newport, in memory of Neil Evans, fished in rainy conditions throughout the match with a light south easterly direction. Thirty-six anglers caught fish with conger eels being the main species with the odd ray, bass and dogfish thrown into the mix. The top three weights were very tight with only 0.32kg separating the top three positions.

■ **Result:** 1st Chris Read, Cardiff, 5.65kg (99); 2nd Cyril Cross, Cardiff, 5.54kg, thornback ray, which was also biggest fish of the match (not registered); 3rd was, Adrian Ford, Weston Super Mare, 5.33kg (7). Garry Evans Seamaster Points Update: After three qualifying legs the current Seamaster champion Dai Llewellyn is leading the table with 28 points followed closely by Andrew Hutchings and Cyril Cross in second place, both on 27 points. Don Cook and Chris Read are also tying for 3rd place with 26 points.

## 15: GERRY'S SEA LEAGUE, MARINE BEACH, 18 anglers.

More than 60 flounders were landed by the competitors, along with a solitary bass.

■ **Result:** 1st David G Hutchinson, Morecambe, 11 fish 346cm (1), 2nd Stuart Dewhurst, Preston, 8 fish, 258cm; 3rd Peter Wilkinson, Maryport, 9 fish, 245cm.

**REMINDER** Penn Sea League entries will only be accepted from the match organiser or officials of the club concerned at least eight weeks in advance. If results are not returned to Sea Angler within a month of the event, the event will be declared void for Penn points.



## 15: FILEY BRIGG ANGLING SOCIETY, POPULAR FOODS OPEN, 65 anglers.

■ **Result:** 1st Paul short, Guisborough, 3.15.1Kg (6), 2nd Andrew Carpenter, Filey, 3.12.4kg (not registered); 3rd Dominic Christmas, Filey 3.6.6kg (not registered). The heaviest bag went to Paul Medd, Peterborough, 8.2.8kg (2).

## 15: REELFUN LEAGUE AND OPEN SERIES, ROUND 2, LITTLETON, 42 anglers.

■ **Result:** 1st Phil Thomas, Bath, 6 fish, 4lb 2oz (4); 2nd Nick Snow, Bristol, 4 fish, 2lb 10oz (3); 3rd Steve Davis, Bedlington, 5 fish, 2lb 3oz, (2). Zone winner was Tony Smith, Swansea, (not registered).

## 14-15: HOLT SEA ANGLERS BASS FESTIVAL 107 anglers.

Light winds, sunshine and a calm sea greeted the anglers as they made their way along the two venues for this year's bass festival. There was high expectation of the hounds putting in an appearance and from the first cast of day one it didn't disappoint, with several good fish landed on the first few casts of the match, the best of them, 15lb, landed by Paul Harrison. After the first two hours, most of the hounds disappeared and the focus was on finding bass and the resident flatfish and whiting. As day one progressed it was clear bass too were aplenty with several 50-60cm bass being landed. The best was a whopping 67cm, landed at Bacton by Mark Pinder, this fish proving to be the best of the weekend. Top bag on the day went to local angler Henry Randle, fishing the wreck at Kelling. Henry amassed 2524 fish points, mainly smoothhound, but with some whiting, dabs and bass thrown in for good measure. Sadly, the quality of the fishing dropped significantly on day two, with many anglers struggling to find fish. The odd hound, dog and some nice bass did make up the winning bags, with anglers using all their know-how and scratching tactics to lure fish to their bucket. With a perfect score of two zone wins, Wayne McGilloway beat George Smith into second place on fish points, third went to Paul Harrison, who landed his personal best bass and hound on the same day!

■ **Result:** 1st Wayne McGilloway, Greenfield, (20); 2nd George Smith, Grimsby, (19); 3rd Paul Harrison, Aldeburgh, (18); 4th Billy Johnson, Deal, (17); 5th Henry Randle, Bodham, (16); 6th Ben Price, Holyhead, (15); 7th Joe Plumstead, Pevensy Bay, (14); 8th Shane Russell, Colwyn Bay, (13); 9th Rob Tuck, Holland on Sea, (12); 10th Julian French, Brighton, (11). Zone winners: Steve Potts, Gosforth, (1); John Austin, Ipswich, (1); Richard Burt, Clacton (1); Oliver Yallop, Colchester (1); Nedu Serban, London (1).

## 14: SAMALITE CHESIL LEAGUE ROUND 5 OF 12, BEXINGTON, 24 anglers.

■ **Result:** 1st, Chris Read, 12lb 14oz, (2); 2nd Julian Shambrook, Torquay, 10lb 7oz (1); 3rd James, Lane Weymouth, 9lb 4oz.

## 14: COLWYN BAY VICTORIA SEA ANGLERS SUMMER SERIES, 26 anglers.

■ **Result:** 1st Alan Price, Rhyl, 3.92m (2); 2nd Richard House-Goodwin, Colwyn Bay, 2.04m (not registered); 3rd Tony Bob, Anglesey, 1.77m.

Longest fish: Gary Hughes, Colwyn Bay, 47cm bass.

## 8: ANGLERS CORNER 2022 WEST WALES NATIONAL SEA LEAGUE, CEFN SIDEN, 11 anglers.

■ **Result:** 1st Andy Young, Llanelli, 417cm (1); 2nd Peter Evans, Neath, 395cm. Longest fish: Adam Davies, Llanelli, 59cm.

## 8: HOLT SAC WEST NORFOLK CHALLENGE ROUND 1 KINGS LYNN, 21 anglers.

■ **Result:** 1st Henry Randle, Bodham, 31 fish, 15lb 8oz (2); 2nd Adrian Bordianu, Taverham, 27 fish, 12lb 4oz (1); 3rd Mike Watts, Fakenham, 22 fish, 9lb 1oz.

## 8: EAST ANGLIAN SEA LEAGUE ROUND 6, ALDEBURGH; 49 anglers.

The final match of the league was held at Aldeburgh. With a brisk easterly breeze greeting the anglers, there were fish from the off with whiting, small smoothhound and dogfish. However, section five was in a world of its own as several bass were caught, the biggest 62cm, landed by George Smith.

■ **Result:** League and cup double winners were Breakaway Tackle 235 points: Steve Adams, Rob Tuck, Ian Bowell, Mark Pinder and Richard Burt. Runners up were Italicanna 229 points, with Anyfish Anywhere Asso finishing third with 224 points. Individuals on the day: 1st Lee Caley, Woodbridge, 11 fish, 465 points (4); 2nd Robbie Taylor, Deal, 21 fish, 452 points (3); 3rd Simon Drayton, Gainsborough, 14 fish, 424 points (2). Zone winners: Ian Bowell, Ipswich (1) and Graham Adams Shotley (1). Biggest fish: George Smith, Grimsby, 62cm bass (1).

## 8: CUMBRIA OPEN, 83 anglers.

This match was held in Walney Channel and fished Barrow side. Seventy nine Senior anglers and 4 junior anglers turned out to what was a chilly start to the morning. The sun eventually showed its face and fishing got under way. There were three zones each producing good fish. There was a total of 163 fish recorded, caught and released, not counting the anglers who did not return their cards. The match was single longest length fish.

■ **Result:** 1st Shaun Jones, Barrow, 48cm plaice (not registered); 2nd Darren Sharp, Millom, 45cm flounder (not registered); 3rd Dave Shaw, Barrow, 42cm bass (not registered). Longest running total winner: Karl Moor, Whitehaven, with 9 fish for 271cm (not registered). Zone winner: Jay Cityzen, Blackpool (3). Top juniors: 1st Zak Sharp, 2nd Harry Stamp, 3rd Billy Singleton, 4th Oscar Palmer.

## 8: WELSH FSA EAST REGION SHORE LEAGUE ROUND 3 & OPEN, 80 anglers.

Weather conditions were again almost spot-on with the exception of a light south easterly wind. This didn't appear to affect

the fishing at some locations with most of the good bags of fish coming from the Porthcawl/Sker end of the competition limits. 70 out of 80 anglers caught fish totalling 456kg consisting of 11 different species: dogfish, bull huss, rockling, pouting, conger eel, blonde/spotted/small eyed/thornback rays, gurnard and whiting. Justin Bird (Channel Anglers) was top rod with an impressive bag of 25.06kg consisting of 36 dogfish and three rays. A close 2nd was Steve Smyth fishing for the Garry Evans Match Team with 21.45kg consisting of 35 dogfish and a conger eel. Third place was South Wales Match men team member Nigel Putbrace with 21.34kg consisting of 40 dogfish and a pouting. Nigel also won the most fish pool with 41 fish. Foirurth place went to Roy Tapper (South Wales Match Team) with 21.16kg consisting of 40 dogfish. Mike Mather (Gwent Beer Bellies) took fifth place with 19.81kg consisting of 37 dogfish. The heaviest ray pool when to Jamie Mills (Team Turkana with a blonde ray of 6.35kg which was also the heaviest fish of the day.

■ **Result:** Top 5 Individuals after 3 legs: Adam Farmer, 280 fish points, accumulative weight 21kg; Roy Tapper, 267 fish points, accumulative weight 28.9kg; Gerald John, 264 fish points, accumulative weight 18.2kg; 4th Shaun Moore, 263 fish points, accumulative weight 18.5kg; 5th, Dean Downe, 262 fish points, accumulative weight 18.4kg. Top five teams on the day: Channel Anglers, 428 fish points, 14 team points; Gwent Beer Bellies, 409 fish points, 13 team points; Garry Evans Match Team, 399 fish points, 12 team points; South Wales Match-Men, 382 fish points, 11 team points; Sakuma Match Team; 376 fish points, 10 team points.

Top Five Teams after 3 legs: Sakuma Match team with 38 team points, South Wales Match Team with 36 team points, Channel Anglers with 35 team points, Garry Evans match team with 33 team points, Reel Fishing with 27 team points.

■ **Result:** 1st Justin Bird, Newport (8); 2nd Steve Smyth, Cardiff (7), 3rd Nigel Putbrace, Cardiff (6). Biggest fish: Jamie Mills, Newport, blonde ray of 6.35kg (not registered).



Jamie Mills' 6.35kg blonde ray landed in the Welsh FSA shore league



# LEADER BOARD UP TO 1ST JUNE 2022

## PREMIER DIVISION

Saul Page	Deal	57
Joe Wales	Shoreham	50
Ben Price	Holyhead	46
Darren Bond	Lancing	46
Shane Russell	Old Colwyn	39
Ben Bradstock	Honiton	34
Joe Plumstead	Pevensey Bay	33
Keith Smith	Blyth	30
Rob Tuck	Holland on Sea	30
Gary Medler	Great Yarmouth	29
Neil Cutler	Gateshead	29
Paul Smith	South Shields	29
Paul Whelan	Ballybrack	29
Ben Arnold	Brighton	27
Julian Shambrook	Torquay	25
Chris Read	Cardiff	24
Darren Newland	Ryde	24
George Smith	Grimsby	24
Richard Yates	St Marg Bay	24
Andrew Dugdale	Peel	22
Wayne McGilloway	Greenfield	22
Philip A Lee	Sussex	21
Steve Swan	Herne Bay	21
James Madsen	Clevedon	20
Simon Drayton	Gainsborough	20
Dan Mogridge	Portsmouth	19
Bill Lindfield	Greasby	18
Henry Randell	Bodham	18
Paul Harrison	Aldeburgh	18
Billy Johnson	Deal	17
Jane Cantwell	Ireland	16
Jimmy Price	Abergele	16
Louie Smith	Deal	16
Phil Arliss	Filey	16
Ben Shepherd	Maryport	15
Mark Pinder	Ipswich	15
Paul Medd	Peterborough	15
Andy Bates	Louth	14
Dave Shorthouse	Kettering	14
Julian French	Brighton	14
Nicky Robson	Wallsend	14
Tom Wells	Deal	14

Fon Owen	Anglesey	13
Nick Snow	Bristol	13
Steve Gibson	Withernsea	13
Allan Beale	Middlesborough	12
Brian Harland	Whitby	12
Colin Crosby	Hastings	12
N Charlesworth	Hornsea	12
Shaun Tucker	Swansea	12
Chung Ho'Shing	Sheffield	11
Jim Morris	Chester	11
Mike Coates	Hull	11
Alan Price	Rhyl	10
Alby Allan	South Shore SAC	10
Callum Richardson	Preston	10
Chris Isaac	Llanelli	10
Claire Loder	Cwmbran	10
Dave Chidzoy	Bridport	10
Joe Perry	Liverpool	10
Lloyd Summer	Bargoed	10
Matt Pitter	Southampton	10
Mike Larkin	Barrow	10
Sam Collier	Deal	10
Steve Potts	Gosforth	10
Steve Smyth	Cardiff	10
Alan Combe	Kirkcaldy	9
Chris Equall	Cardiff	9
Gareth Griffiths	Barr in Furness	9
Mark Colman	Hornsea	9
Chris Horn	Kirkcaldy	8
Chris Jones	Porthcawl	8
Daniel Eagle	Leiston	8
Gavin Owen	Consett	8
Jason Brown	Bridgwater	8
Justin Bird	Newport	8
Kevin Lewis	Dundee	8
Malcolm Stote	Lymington	8
Mike Rose	3 Counties	8
Tony (Bob) Roberts	Holyhead	8
Adrian Ford	Weston-s-M	7
Franco Attanasio	Saundersfoot	7
Gerald John	Caerphilly	7
Mark Cowell	Llantwit Major	7
Paul Garbutt	Skelton	7

Paul Stanley	Bristol	7
Rich Hughes	Anglesey	7
Sandy Wason	Ayr	7
Aidan O'Halloran	Lisdoonvarna	6
Brett Cotter	London	6
Brogan Bayford	Bristol	6
Daniel Crump	Barry	6
Dave Llewelyn	Barry	6
Graham Adams	Shotley	6
Kris Lindsay	Holyhead	6
Mark Rogers	Maidstone	6
Nigel Putbrace	Cardiff	6
Noel Fogarty	Dublin	6
Paul Short	Guisborough	6
Steve Adams	Chelmondiston	6
Anton James	Portsmouth	5
Darren Jones	Rhyl	5
Dave Pinchbeck	Dartford	5
Fiachra Cronin	Tralee Bay	5
Gary Wood	Holyhead	5
Ian Bowell	Ipswich	5
Ian Dancey	Waterlooville	5
Ian Nelson	Grimsby	5
James Lane	Weymouth	5
John Jones	Llanfairfechan	5
Lewis Clark	Rochford	5
Paul Stevens	Worthing	5
Stuart Cresswell	Ayr	5
Dave Lane	Weymouth	4
David O'Sullivan	Tralee	4
Garry Hughes	Colwyn Bay	4
Jason Banham	Ipswich	4
Jeff Fisk	Bournemouth	4
Karl Wiepcke	Goxhill	4
Kevin Martland	New Brighton	4
Lee Caley	Woodbridge	4
Mark Davies	Wrexham	4
Mark Griffen	Nantwich	4
Michael Cox		4
Paul Bonner	West Kirby	4
Phil Thomas	Bath	4
Tom Ryder	Worthing	4
Tony Burnham	Cleethorpes	4
Wayne Leason	Hull	4

Only those with 4 or more points are listed

## HOW IT WORKS

■ With £10,000 in tackle prizes spread over the two divisions, points, based on entries, are awarded to the top three, section winners and captors of the largest fish caught in each designated Penn match. Penn also awards a prize of a Spinfisher fixed-spool reel to the angler scoring the most points in matches shown in each issue. If there is a tie, the winner will be the angler whose total is from the greatest number of results and is then chosen on merit by the editor. An angler can win only one reel during the year. To win a prize you must be registered with the Penn Sea League – supply your name, address, phone and email. Send fixtures, results and league registration by email to Ian Bowell: [ian.bowell@icloud.com](mailto:ian.bowell@icloud.com)



Penn Monthly Winner for May: George Smith, Grimsby, 21 Points.



# WHAT'S ON

Your at-a-glance  
match events  
planner

● = Penn Sea League

## JULY

● **16:** Samalite Chesil League round 7 of 12, Abbotsbury, 6-11pm, best nine results from 12, pre-book only, Dave Lane 07977 132951  
Dave Lane: lanedc@talktalk.net

● **17:** Tralee Bay SAC County Kerry, Ireland, Cashen 3-7pm Chris O'Sullivan, atlantictackle@hotmail.com

● **17:** Newport & District open, St Brides, Tony Hart 07530 983667.

● **17:** Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers, round 5 East Fife, Max 50 Pegs, £15 Adults £5 Juniors. Contact Mike on 07933 003985 or Chris on 07872944807

● **17:** North West Association of Sea Anglers, Crosby. Fishing 12.30-16.30pm. Book on at the coastguard station, L23 SSY Pre-booking essential, 07572593272

● **17:** SAMF GB Summer League, Barton 1 zone viewing area 1 zone Water's edge 8-12pm, meet at 0700-0730, £20 all in, straight measure, everything counts, pre book only, 40 pegs. Contact Brett: 07834559265

● **23:** Ipswich Sea Anglers summer open, River Alde, 6-11pm £20 entry, SAMF weight measure, except whiting and bass 27cm, everything else over 18cm. Pre-book only Matt LF: 07810564399 or Rob Tuck: 07855848967

● **24:** SAMF GB Summer League, Hessle foreshore 2.30- 6.30, meet at 1.30- 2pm, £20 all in, straight measure, everything counts, pre book only 40 pegs. Contact Brett: 07834559265

● **31:** Welsh FSA East Region Shore League round 5 & open, Llantwit Major. Contact Steve Chadwick: 07777 689289.

## AUGUST

● **6:** North West Association of Sea Anglers, Bluebridge Fishing 16.30-20.15pm. Book on TRA. Pre-book essential 07572593272

● **7:** Holt SAC West Norfolk Challenge Round 4, Sutton Bridge, Mike: 07858758669 or Tony: 07780793141, thomasamt@btinternet.com

● **7:** Tralee Bay SAC County Kerry, Ireland, Barrow 3-7pm Chris O'Sullivan, atlantictackle@hotmail.com

● **7:** South Wales Sea Anglers open, Cardiff Foreshore, Rob Cole: 07792 456428.

● **13:** Colwyn Bay Victoria Sea Anglers Summer series 3rd leg LLandulas beach 5.30-9.30pm Darren Jones: 07595375663

● **13-14:** Hookers Baits 2-day event, Cleveleys and Fleetwood 13th 6-10pm, 14th 6.30-10.30pm. Contact Jay; mantamaintenance@outlook.com

● **14:** Llantwit Major charity open, Llantwit Major, Mark Cowell: 07721 791210.

● **16:** Samalite Chesil League round 8 of 12, Cogden, 5-10pm, best nine results from 12, pre-book only, Dave Lane: 07977 132951  
Dave Lane: lanedc@talktalk.net

● **27:** Hastings & St Leonards AA Dave Moore Cup open, 8pm-midnight, lug, fish, squid baits only, Colin Crosby: 01424 430120, colinmichael123@gmail.com

● **27:** Southern League round 8 of 12 & open, Hillhead, 8pm-1am, pegged, measure & return, undersize fish count as 10z, £15 match entry, £5 pools, £10 pair, team of five free, 2022 League entry £25, booking ends one hour before start, book only, Darren 07919 073232, Mike: 07983 579596, Ian: 07736 004714 or Ant: 07775 691916. Nick: southernleagueandopens@gmail.com

● **27:** Ipswich Sea Angling club David Bridges memorial match, Sizewell. 7-12 Midnight £20 entry, SAMF weight measure, except whiting and bass 27cm, everything else over 18cm. Pre-book only Matt LF: 07810564399 or Rob Tuck: 07855848967

● **27:** BRAAS Open Westend beach Bognor Regis 2030-0130am, PO21 2QA, catch and release, booking in and draw for pegs from 1930, entry cost £ 8.00 senior £ 4.00 junior, optional pools flat £1.00 round £1.00, cash prize subject to entry, contact John Small: 07799 762377 after 5 pm

● **28:** Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers, round 6 Clyde, Max 50 Pegs, £15 Adults £5 Juniors. Contact Lindsay Wilson: 07751 051782

● **28:** Club: Holyhead & District AC Open, Holyhead Breakwater, 10-2pm, 80 pegs, measure and release, entry fee £20 Booking on: PayPal holyheadangling@yahoo.com all enquires; holyheadangling@yahoo.com

**Got an event? Contact  
ian.bowell@icloud.com**

## LONDON BRIDGE \*

### JULY

1	FRI	04.03	6.72	16.18	6.56
2	SAT	04.39	6.66	16.51	6.51
3	SUN	05.13	6.60	17.25	6.44
4	MON	05.48	6.53	18.00	6.35
5	TUE	6.26	6.43	18.36	6.24
6	WED	7.07	6.29	19.17	6.14
7	THU	07.54	6.15	20.06	6.06
8	FRI	08.51	6.04	21.06	6.02
9	SAT	10.00	6.03	22.27	6.10
10	SUN	11.12	6.15	23.40	6.34
11	MON	***	***	12.18	6.34
12	TUE	00.45	6.64	13.21	6.54
13	WED	01.45	6.90	14.18	6.70
14	THU	02.42	7.11	15.12	6.81
15	FRI	03.36	7.25	16.03	6.90
16	SAT	04.28	7.34	16.51	6.95
17	SUN	05.18	7.32	17.36	6.93
18	MON	06.06	7.17	18.21	6.83
19	TUE	06.53	6.93	19.05	6.68
20	WED	07.41	6.65	19.52	6.49
21	THU	08.30	6.36	20.44	6.28
22	FRI	09.21	6.11	21.41	6.10
23	SAT	10.17	5.92	22.42	5.98
24	SUN	11.20	5.83	23.48	6.00
25	MON	***	***	12.29	5.94
26	TUE	00.51	6.17	13.25	6.16
27	WED	01.45	6.40	14.12	6.38
28	THU	02.31	6.58	14.52	6.53
29	FRI	03.12	6.68	15.30	6.62
30	SAT	03.49	6.73	16.05	6.68
31	SUN	04.24	6.78	16.39	6.71

## TIDES FOR JULY - AUG 2022

### AUGUST

1	MON	04.57	6.80	17.11	6.69
2	TUE	05.30	6.75	17.42	6.63
3	WED	06.03	6.63	18.15	6.52
4	THU	06.39	6.44	18.51	6.42
5	FRI	07.19	6.23	19.33	6.31
6	SAT	08.07	6.03	20.26	6.19
7	SUN	09.11	5.86	21.39	6.07
8	MON	10.36	5.83	23.10	6.16
9	TUE	11.56	6.00	***	***
10	WED	00.27	6.44	13.09	6.31
11	THU	01.36	6.78	14.12	6.61
12	FRI	02.36	7.08	15.04	6.85
13	SAT	03.28	7.29	15.51	7.03
14	SUN	04.16	7.39	16.35	7.15
15	MON	05.01	7.37	17.15	7.17
16	TUE	05.43	7.21	17.54	7.08
17	WED	06.23	6.92	18.30	6.89
18	THU	07.01	6.57	19.08	6.62
19	FRI	07.39	6.22	19.51	6.32
20	SAT	08.22	5.90	20.43	5.99
21	SUN	09.15	5.63	21.49	5.74
22	MON	10.23	5.49	23.05	5.69
23	TUE	11.48	5.61	***	***
24	WED	00.22	5.92	12.59	5.98
25	THU	01.24	6.29	13.49	6.34
26	FRI	02.11	6.57	14.31	6.58
27	SAT	02.51	6.73	15.09	6.71
28	SUN	03.27	6.82	15.44	6.81
29	MON	04.00	6.90	16.16	6.89
30	TUE	04.32	6.95	16.47	6.92
31	WED	05.04	6.90	17.18	6.88

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### \* TIDAL VARIATIONS FROM LONDON

Wick	-2.29	Swansea	+4.42
Lossiemouth	-2.00	Milford Haven	+4.37
Aberdeen	-0.18	Fishguard	+5.44
Stonehaven	-0.08	Aberystwyth	-6.11
Cockenzie	+0.47	Barmouth	-5.45
Berwick	+0.54	Holyhead	-3.28
Blyth	+1.46	Menai Bridge	-3.08
North Shields	+1.47	Colwyn Bay	-2.47
Hartlepool	+1.59	Southport	-2.55
Whitby	+2.20	Blackpool	-2.50
Scarborough	+2.30	Morecambe	-2.33
Filey Bay	+2.45	Barrow (Ramsden)	-2.28
Bridlington	+2.58	Whitehaven	-2.30
Skegness	+4.29	Kirkcudbright Bay	-2.25
Hunstanton	+4.44	Girvan	-1.51
Cromer	+4.56	Ayr	-1.44
Lowestoft	-4.23	Lamlash	-1.45
Aldeburgh	-2.53	Greenock	-1.19
Felixstowe pier	-2.23	Oban	+4.12
Clacton	-2.00	Gairloch	+5.16
Southend-on-Sea	-1.22	Ullapool	+5.36
Herne Bay	-1.24	Belfast	-2.47
Margate	-1.52	Douglas	-2.44
Deal	-2.38		
Dover	-2.53		
Dungeness	-3.05		
Eastbourne	-2.48	IRELAND	
Newhaven	-2.47	Dun Laoghaire	-2.09
Brighton	-2.51	Arklow	-4.41
Worthing	-2.36	Rosslare harbour	
Portsmouth	-2.29		
Ryde	-2.29	Baginbun Head	+3.53
Southampton *	-2.53	Ballycotton	+3.45
Poole (Entrance) *		Courtmacsherry	+3.32
-5.09		Baltimore	+3.35
Bournemouth *	-5.09	Bantry	+3.15
Swanage *	-5.19	Fenit pier	+3.13
Portland	+4.57	Kilrush	+4.02
Torquay	+4.40	Galway	+3.36
Dartmouth	+4.25	Clifden Bay	+3.41
Plymouth	+4.05	Westport Bay	+3.57
Fowey	+3.53	Sligo harbour	+4.25
Falmouth	+3.30	Killybegs	+4.21
Newquay	+3.32	Rathmullan	+4.43
Padstow	+3.45		
Barnstaple	+4.30	NORTHERN IRELAND	
Weston-super-Mare		Belfast	-2.47
+5.05		Portrush	+5.48
Cardiff (Penarth)	+5.15	Red Bay	-2.41
Barry	+5.08	Carrickfergus	-2.42



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**DAIWA EMBLEM SURF 45 SCW QD REEL**

The Emblem Surf 45 SCW Quick Drag reel is the ideal choice for the discerning beach angler who seeks a high performance fixed spool for both braid and monofil.

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MIXED GROUND 70Z  
ROCK & SURF 80Z**

There are three different models in the range available, covering most types of shore type found in the U.K. - from sandy mixed ground beaches through to rocky, rough ground.

Special attention has been given to these rods to make them very slim but yet incredibly powerful and responsive, ensuring the maximum distance is achieved on the cast.

The tip is highlighted to give perfect bite registration visibility, even during low light conditions.

Features include:-  
• High modulus 40 tonne, lightweight carbon blank  
• X-wrap carbon technology that increases rod strength and decreases rod twisting, thereby improving casting accuracy and rod control  
• Tip highlight for increased visual bite detection  
• Fuji Alconite saltwater proof guides  
• Reinforcing section collars  
• Full shrink handle for extra grip  
• Sliding reel seat

All models are 14ft 3" in length and built using three piece, equal length section blanks.

MG 60Z OUR PRICE <b>£296.99</b> rrp £349.99	MG 70Z OUR PRICE <b>£296.99</b> rrp £349.99	R&S 80Z OUR PRICE <b>£314.99</b> rrp £359.99
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**PENN MULTIPLIER REELS**

**515 MAG4**  
OUR PRICE  
**£129.99**

**525 MAG4**  
OUR PRICE  
**£139.99**

525 Mag 4 Shown

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--	--	---

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--	--

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MEGA LITE 80 OUR PRICE <b>£64.75</b> rrp £71.95	MEGA LITE 100 OUR PRICE <b>£72.85</b> rrp £80.95
--	---

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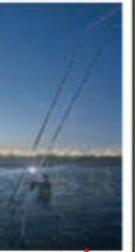
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handle, Ali spool & spare spool



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**W**elcome to the Sea Angler guide to lure fishing – the ultimate reference material for UK saltwater lure fishing. There has been a revolution in the technology, tackle, and tactics of UK saltwater lure angling over the 20 years and this guide will provide you with all you need to know to become a more successful lure angler. So, whether you are a beginner or an experienced angler you will find the lure guide a source of information, hints, tips, techniques, and inspiration on how to catch more fish using lures from both the shore and when afloat.



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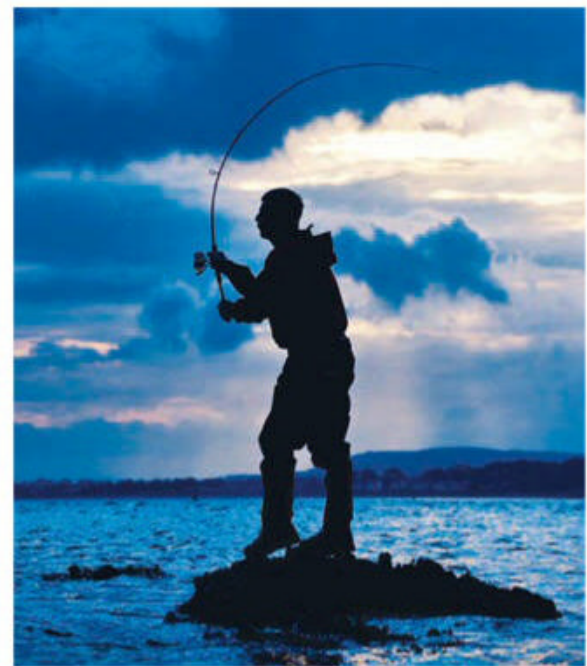


# GET HOOKED ON LURE FISHING

Henry Gilbey explains the allure of lure fishing and why it's never been more popular for UK sea anglers

**S**o, what exactly is lure fishing then? In its most basic form lure fishing is based around the use of artificial lures to try and fool fish into eating them. Indeed, lure fishing in my view is very similar to fly fishing in that regard. Within UK and Irish saltwater sport fishing we target a lot of

our fish with bait and lures – together with a bit of saltwater fly fishing – and while there's no getting away from the simple fact that bait fishing gives you a far greater chance at some of our larger species such as conger, huss and rays, over the last few years the whole lure fishing scene has really opened many anglers' eyes to



what can be caught and where. If bass, cod and pollack were once the principal species that an angler fishing with lures might target from boat and shore, these days that list is growing all the time and it really is quite something. Who'd have thought 10 years ago that wrasse, for example, would have turned out to be one of the most obliging and enjoyable saltwater fish to target on lure gear? And then of course you have the whole LRF scene which is a serious eye-opener as well.

I come from a bait fishing background where chucking something artificial in the sea tended to be no more than a bit of an afterthought while waiting for a bait-rod tip to start nodding away. But lure fishing has crept up on me over the last few years and taken over my soul. Of course, the two kinds of saltwater fishing co-exist perfectly happily, but I love how they are so different, and I love how each kind forces us to adapt and change in order to catch fish. However you choose to go fishing though, nothing is ever more important than being in the right place at the right time – understanding when and where the fish are likely to be and why is the fundamental crux of fishing, and I absolutely love how fishing is arguably the greatest leveller there is. You can throw all the money in the world at fishing, but you can't force nature to do what you want. The best anglers are always going to be those people who, by virtue of lots of hard work, skill and thought, know plenty about how to act upon the where, when, and why. ►



9lb of chunky lure-caught Irish bass





UK lure  
angling is  
booming!



## PRIMAL INSTINCT

I am not one of those anglers who has any interest in the various arguments about whether one kind of fishing is better or worse than another, but as an obsessed angler I am fascinated in looking into why certain kinds of fishing seem to appeal to different anglers. I don't even eat fish myself yet buried within me as a human being has to be this age-old urge to go fishing because it's something to do with our ancient hunter/gatherer instinct. I want to go fishing, I need to go fishing, hell, I live for fishing. But why lure fishing so much these days?

If the fundamentals of fishing are based around the where, when and why, then to me it's the different way we then try to catch fish which helps explain why lure fishing has got such a hold over me. In reality there are most likely any number of different reasons, but in its most basic form I really do think it's the simple fact that lure fishing is the most 'involved' form of fishing I have ever done. I am always doing something, indeed if you aren't casting and retrieving in

some form or another you aren't actually fishing as such, and I can't help but feel that when I am out lure fishing it's a form of literally hunting for fish. As I said earlier, bait fishing is where I come from, and while the thrill of nailing a bait to the bottom and waiting for a bite is fundamental to how sea fishing grabs so many of us, over the last few years I have become increasingly fascinated by the way in which lure fishing makes me do something all the time. I love how different this way of sea fishing is to bait fishing, and rather than waste valuable fishing time trying to argue which way is better, instead we should be celebrating how diverse our fishing is, and how amazing it is that we can choose to fish for various species in so many different ways.

So what's this 'doing' stuff that lure fishing is all about? Well, to put it simply, unlike bait fishing where for the most part you bait up, cast out and then wait for a fish to come to your static bait, with lure fishing you are constantly casting and retrieving, casting and retrieving. Your lure rod becomes almost a part of you, and with bass fishing especially you are most likely going to be

on the move and covering lots of ground on the hunt for fish; thinking on your feet. Don't get me wrong, I love lure fishing for wrasse and pollack as well, but it's bass that have got me so hooked on lure fishing. The chase, the hunt, call it what you will; I just love how I am not watching tips or holding a rod and waiting for a bite. Nope, lure fishing feeds my need to be doing something. As I said though, and it's important to reiterate this – neither way of fishing is better or worse. They are just a bit different, and most anglers are entirely happy mixing and matching and having a huge amount of fun doing so.

Another hugely important thing to lure fishing for me is how easy it is to actually go out fishing. OK, so I have been living near the sea now for over 20 years and I can't imagine a life not being surrounded by fishing opportunities. But spare time is not as much as it once used to be and I want to maximise the fishing time I have got. The collecting and managing of fresh bait used to take up a fair bit of my fishing time, but these days I can simply grab a couple of boxes of lures and my camera bag of course, put my waders

**Travelling  
light is one  
of the major  
attractions  
of lure  
fishing**





on, strap a rod to my car, and be out fishing in no time at all. With lure fishing it can be highly efficient to fish plenty of shorter sessions over the prime tides and conditions, rather than try to plan weeks ahead, pray for some weather, and then fish a marathon session where you're only in the actual prime periods for a short window. It helps to live nice and close to the sea. I am fishing loads and loving every single second of it!

## WHERE TO BEGIN?

The whole lure fishing scene can seem rather daunting to a newcomer: What's the best lure, the best rod or the best reel? What's the best time to go bass fishing? It's no different to going bait fishing really, for there will be optimum times when different locations seem to work best. There will of course be certain conditions that might indeed work better with a lure fishing approach – and vice versa. Waders, wading boots, soft plastics, weedless, weightless, FG knots, fluorocarbon leaders, walking the dog, twitch/pause, straight retrieve, believe me, I could go on and on. Lure fishing is a learning curve just the same as bait fishing is, and while some anglers have been chasing UK species on lures for many moons, there are more people these days who are stumbling onto the fact that not only is lure fishing a huge amount of fun, it is a deadly method to fish for a growing number of



Savage Gear Pop Walkers

species. I have always loved a bit of wrasse fishing for example, but ever since I properly learnt how to fish for them with soft plastics I haven't used bait for them ever again, and I don't see myself doing so either. I reckon I catch more and bigger wrasse on lures and I could not have imagined saying that a few years ago. Bass used to be a fish that I caught by mistake when I was bait fishing for something else, and now look at me – hopelessly addicted to fishing with lures for our spiky friends, and my love for this hugely involved way of saltwater fishing is growing and growing. ■





# CHOOSING A LURE ROD

Bamboozled by choice? Don't be! Henry Gilbey guides you through considerations when buying a lure rod and recommends his top four for UK bass fishing

**I**t may seem remarkably obvious to tell you how important a fishing rod is for fishing, but if there is one thing that has struck me about the lure fishing scene, it's how much that lightweight lure rod you carry around with you is going to be so much easier, efficient, and just downright nicer to fish with, if it feels more like an extension to yourself rather than a stiff stick which ends up working against you.

Coming from the bait fishing it can feel very strange when you pick up a 9ft lure rod rated to cast in the region of 10-30g, as opposed to something that may be 13ft, or longer, and rated to cast 60z, but it will make sense; I promise you. So, what sort of lure fishing rod should you be looking at? What rod will work well with you as you develop your lure fishing techniques and are therefore increasingly needing the one rod to do so much for you?

## TRUST ME

I am going to ask you to trust me here, and if you do then I know I can save you time and money. I will try to get you to the sort of lure rod which works so well without having to buy and sell different rods along the way because they weren't quite right. I have been through exactly the same experiences as I am talking about so I understand completely if you are wondering what this lure fishing lark is all about. If you are coming from a beachcasting background then you can't help but pick up some of these lure rods and wonder, how on earth they can actually cast lures or land fish. The chances are that you will want to do what I did initially and by default go to the most powerful and stiff sort of lure rod you can find because it feels that bit less alien.

Don't do it! I promise that you will save time and money and end up enjoying your lure fishing so much more if you don't buy the stiffest spinning rod you can find and then wonder what on earth all these weightless soft plastics are about because you can't cast them any distance, or feel very much of what is actually going on. Sure, you'll get a good size metal lure out into rough conditions, but are you then going to start carrying a few different rods with you when the main aim is remaining mobile and efficient? Sometimes I will take a couple of different rods if I am reviewing something, or if I need a specialist wrasse rod, but for the most part I am demanding that the one (bass) lure rod I decide to take out fishing with me can then cover all eventualities.





## ROD LENGTH

I have lure fished for bass for years now with rods from 7ft 4in to 10ft long and I have come to the conclusion that a lure rod around 8ft 6in up to 9ft 6in works ideally for the locations and conditions I fish, the lures I use, and the methods I want to employ. I would encourage you to settle on a rod length that you feel most comfortable with, and there are some stunning 9ft lure rods out there that really do feel like they are an extension of your arm when you're out fishing. What do I mean by this? Well in bait fishing you are mostly baiting up, casting out, and then leaving your rod in a tripod waiting for a bite. Casting is a vital part of any fishing, but what you are not doing in bait fishing is casting and retrieving all the time, which in turn, of course, means that in lure fishing you are holding your rod all the time as you work your lures. Quite simply, you are using the rod far more than when you are bait fishing, and the lighter and more efficient that lure rod, the more enjoyable the overall experience. If you are fishing well then you are in with a greater shot at some fish.

I encourage you to go for the rod length then that feels most comfortable, but if it helps I lure fished for a fair amount of time with various 8ft rods and did just fine. Once I made that move to a 9ft rod though I found that I did prefer that slightly longer length. Why? I like it for punching lures out into headwinds. You can't ignore the slight distance increase with your casting and I find it easier for bumping weighted soft plastics down a run of current, for example. I know lots of lure anglers who do very well with the slightly shorter rods but a decent 9ft 6in lure rod can feel just as easy to fish with as an 8ft rod – the trick here is to think about the lure weights that the rod is rated to cast. With the more traditional UK ►



**You might think that you need a 20-80g spinning rod for bass fishing from the shore, but I am here to tell you that you don't, not in the UK and Ireland, or at least not for 95 per cent of what we might do**





style spinning rods you will often find that the longer you go, the heavier lures the rod is designed to fish.

You might think that you need a 20-80g spinning rod for bass fishing from the shore, but I am here to tell you that you don't, not in the UK and Ireland, or at least not for 95 per cent of what we might do. Remember that I am trying to save you money by getting to the right rod faster. You may end up finding that there are occasions when you do need a bit more grunt to a lure rod than the casting weights that I am going to suggest, but I bet you that for most anglers who lure fish for bass in the UK and Ireland a rod rated in the 5-35g range will do most, if not all, that they need.

## A FISHING ROD THIS LIGHT, SURELY NOT?

Go to your lure boxes and find me the heaviest lure you might use for your bass fishing. Am I right in thinking it's under 30g? So why use a rod that is rated to cast any more? Believe me, as much as I love my bass fishing, there isn't a bass that swims that cannot be landed on a rod I am describing. The more feel and feedback you can get in lure fishing the better, and because so many of the lures we use are comparatively light, if your rod isn't bending properly in the cast then you are going to struggle casting some lures any distance. It's the same with bait fishing when lots of anglers with questionable casting styles simply aren't getting any distance because they can't compress their powerful beachcasters.

Think about a potential bass fishing session on the lures and consider what lures and techniques you might be using. In the same session you could be working surface



The right rod will catch you more fish like this!

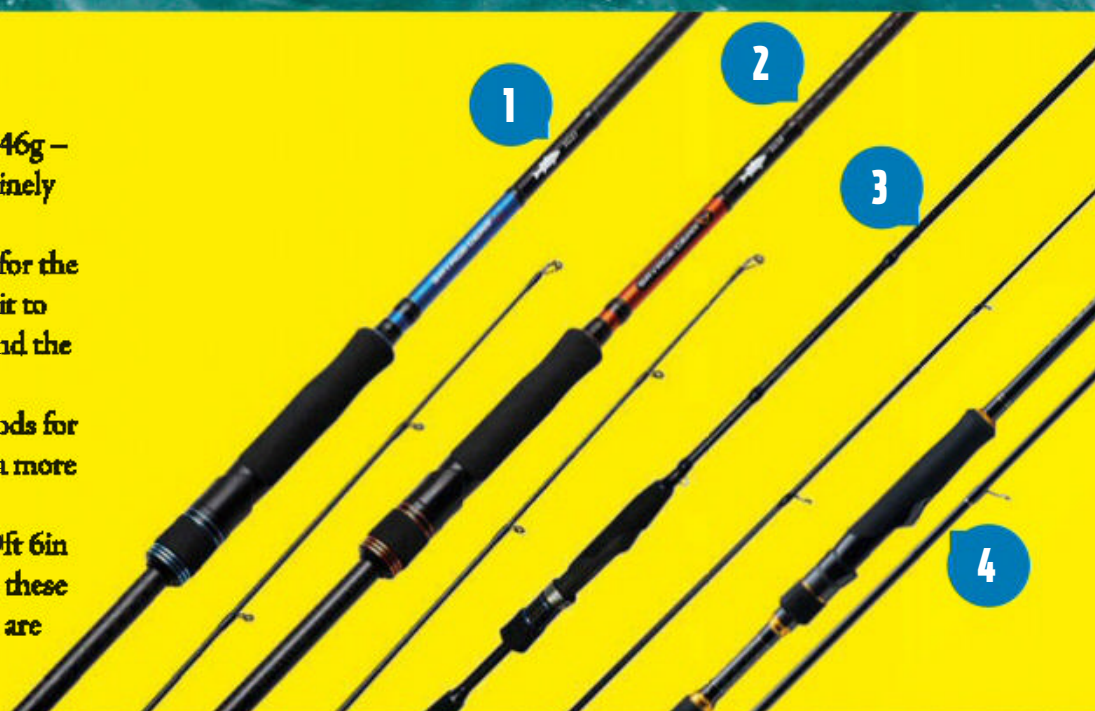
lures at range, straight-retrieving a selection of shallow diving hard lures, bumping a weighted soft plastic along the bottom and, of course, deftly twitching weightless soft plastics. Choose the right 9ft lure rod rated somewhere from 5-35g and I can assure you that you'll be amazed how much they can do for you. Some anglers may well fish for bass in a place or in conditions that mean moving up to a heavier class of lure rod, but even then you can find rods around 10-45g which are so good that they will do whatever is required of them.

## JAPANESE INFLUENCE

What I have learnt over the years is that some of the most useful rods for UK saltwater lure fishing come either from Japan, or they have a lot of Japanese influence in them. In case you were wondering, (sea) bass fishing in Japan is serious business. Their two species are slightly different to the ones we have, but their market is highly developed and it so happens that a lot of the lures, techniques, and rods they use translate very well to our own bass fishing. ■

### Rods to consider:

1. Savage Gear SGS5 9ft 9-35g, 9ft 6in 9-35g, 9ft 6in 12-46g – Yes I had a big hand in developing these rods, but I genuinely have not fished with better lure rods for under £200.
2. Savage Gear SGS8 9ft 2in 9-42g – 'The' lure rod I use for the bulk of my lure fishing because we did so much work on it to make sure it could cope with almost all my bass fishing and the different lures I might use.
3. HTO Nebula 9ft 7-35g and 9ft 6in 7-35g – Brilliant rods for the money, they definitely changed my opinion on what a more budget lure rod could do.
4. Major Craft TripleCross EU Custom 9ft 10-30g and 9ft 6in 10-30g – MajorCraft make some amazing lure rods, and these successors to their immensely popular Skyroad lure rods are fantastic.





# REEL CONSIDERATION

# CHOOSING LURE FISHING REELS AND LINES

What kind of reel do you need for lure fishing, and what kind of line should you use? Henry Gilbey helps you get to grips with the essentials for success

**A**s we have already discovered, lure fishing is so exciting largely due to the simple fact that you are always doing something. But it's that constantly doing something which is also so hard on your lure fishing tackle. It's not the size of the fish we might catch on lures that is putting so much strain on our gear; It's the style of fishing. Think about a typical lure fishing session. Think about how many times you might open the bale arm on your reel, cast, snap the bale arm back over, and then turn the reel handle continuously as you retrieve your lure. Think about how much the reel is actually being used by doing all this, plus it can get covered by saltwater from time to time which we all know is extremely corrosive for any mechanical item with moving parts.

## CONSIDERATIONS

There are any number of spinning reels out there that will cope with a bit of lure fishing, but you need to think about a few things before you drop your cash on a shiny bit of kit. Firstly, how much can you spend? I can't decide this for you, but I would implore you to treat the purchase of a spinning reel for lure fishing with as much thought as you would a lure rod. If we think about the rods we have already talked about then there really is no need to use anything larger than a Shimano size 4000 or Daiwa size 3000 reel – and yes, it's confusing, but these are essentially the same reel sizes. A reel of this size will tend to balance nicely on a lure rod around the 9ft and 9ft 6in length. Of course, some of you will find that it also sits perfectly well on a shorter, or indeed longer, lure rod. I also like the next size down; the

Shimano 3000 and Daiwa 2500 models. While these slightly smaller and lighter reels will work perfectly well on those 9ft and 9ft 6in rods, it's on rods of 9ft and below that I find they tend to feel the best. It must be up to you what size of reel feels the best on what length of rod because there are no hard and fast rules here.

Let's ignore the reels that are aimed more at bait anglers because they are too large and heavy for our needs. If we take the Shimano 4000 and Daiwa 3000 as our base level reels have a look around for a reel that fits your price bracket. There are as many reels out there as rods, and as a starting point I will tend to look first at Shimano, Penn and Daiwa. They all make plenty of good lure fishing reels at various price ranges, plus the new Savage Gear SGS6 and SGS8 spinning reels offer a lot of features for the price. It's a given that most modern lure fishing reels should be suited to fishing with modern braids, but I can't guarantee that you will be problem free if you go for a cheap as chips reel from an unknown manufacturer. The mighty Penn Slammer IV 2500 and 3500 spinning reels are the ones to go for if your reel is prone to the odd dunking. In truth, I like the Slammers so much I use them for a lot of my fishing. They are a bit heavier but they are so robust and solid and I really like this.

## MAINTENANCE

How do you look after a lure reel that is going to end up getting so much use? Think about all the saltwater spraying off your braid and into the roller bearing area for example. As we all know, saltwater plus

metal tends to equal rust. After a lure fishing session I will tighten the drag down and hose my reel off under freshwater then put it down somewhere to dry off. The moment I hear or feel any 'rasping' sound from the roller bearing assembly I will open it up and pack it with Penn Precision Reel grease (wipe off the excess of course),

The PENN Slammer is saltwater resistant





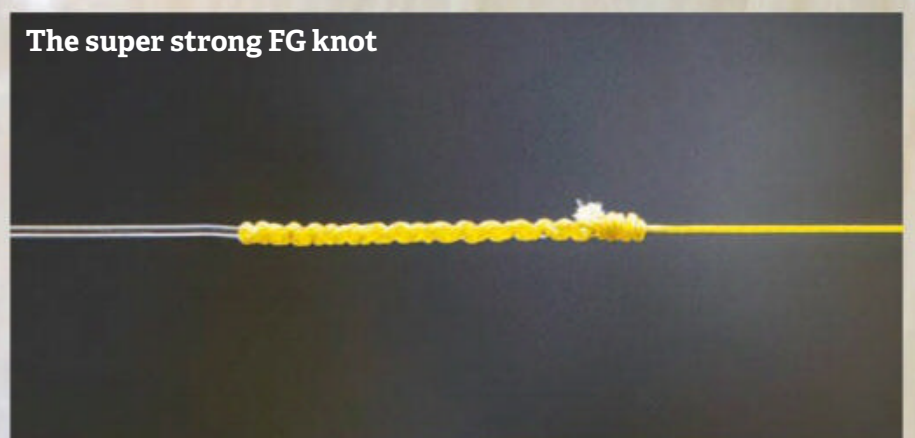


plus put some drops of Penn Precision Reel oil in the bearings either side of the reel handle. If this seems like a bit of a pain then I make no apologies. I have had any number of roller bearings fail on me on any number of reels and I will do what I can to prevent it. As with servicing your car, I would implore you to send your reel off for a decent service at the end of your lure fishing year, or do what you can yourself if you are comfortable doing so. Lure fishing in saltwater especially is incredibly tough in spinning reels. ►



PENN precision grease and oil

The super strong FG knot





## LINE CHOICE

So what about the lines we should be putting on our shiny new reels? While I have heard a few reasoned arguments over the years for the use of mono mainlines for lure fishing, I don't subscribe to any of them, not with how good modern braids are. If so much of lure fishing is about feel then I want that lack of stretch in braid and its lower diameter which gives us such direct contact to the lure we are fishing with, the terrain we are fishing over, and the fish we end up hooking. I can't imagine not lure fishing with braid.

Lure fishing with one of those silky-smooth 8-strand braids that are as thin as you like, cut through the wind and current, and generally help get your lures out a little further if need be, is a great experience. Eight-strand braids are, for the most part, more expensive than the cheaper but perfectly good and reliable 4-strands. However, times have changed and we can now get a number of good 8-strands for very reasonable prices. I can get way more than a single season out of a spool of good 8-strand braid, and even then if I feel like it's in good condition I will often reverse it to get even more life out of it. Think about it like this and a good braid makes even more sense. I really like Sufix 832 (particularly robust) and Sufix X8 braids, with the Savage Gear HD8 Silencer

also worth looking at. If price is no object then my favourite braid is the Sufix 131, but it's a lot more expensive than the others. I have one reel with this braid on which has been going for more than three years though; so if you don't get wind knots the Sufix 131 goes on and on performing perfectly.

Don't be greedy when filling up your reel with braid. Indeed, a little erring on the side of caution makes life that bit easier. Most spools of braid come in 150m lengths and that's more than enough for how we lure fish and the species we are likely to hook. Most anglers could so easily tighten their drags up a whole lot more as it is. Use some thinnish mono backing and then wind on your spool of braid to a sensible level. Look after your braid and what might seem like an expensive mainline is actually going to turn out to be good value for money, especially with how efficiently it helps you to fish and work lures. It's an amazing feeling to put such small movements on your rod tip with a surface lure at range yet have it work so well.

One top trick is to get into the habit of manually closing your bale arm when lure fishing with braid. On some of my reels I have never actually turned the handle to trip it back over. I have no idea why, but for some reason using the handle to trip bale arms back over is a serious cause of the dreaded wind knots, so

make sure to do it manually. In no time at all it will seem as natural as the actual casting does. Penn reels perform better with a lower line level than you get away with on a Shimano or Daiwa, so if you allow for this it's no hassle.

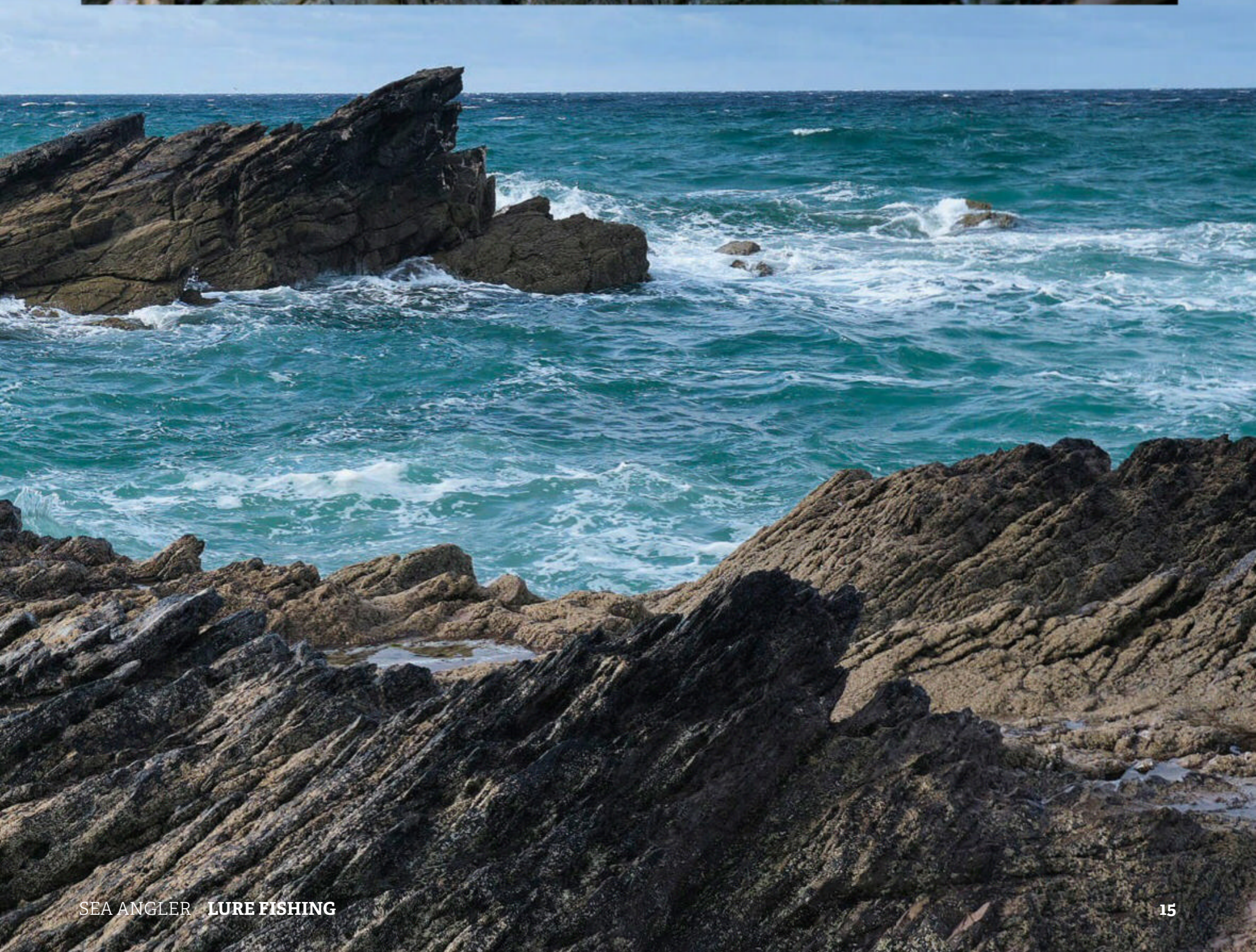
## LEADERS

I happen to like using a shortish three-inch leader on the end of my braid – I like the leader knot to be outside of my tip guide when I am casting – and while I have experimented with different monofilaments and fluorocarbons I keep coming back to a 20lb fluoro leader for the bulk of my bass fishing. I like that little bit of stiffness that fluoro gives you and while I don't subscribe to its claimed invisibility, I think it makes a lot of sense. I am only going to recommend one knot for attaching braid to leader, and that's the ridiculously strong FG knot. Google it, learn it, and you will never look back. Why use another knot which isn't as strong and which can't get everything out of your modern braid? ■





Savage Gear  
fluorocarbon  
for your  
leader







# MAKING HARD LURES EASY

**Hard, soft, shallow, diving? With so many types of lure to choose from how do you know what you should be using? Lure guru, Henry Gilbey, explains hard lures and what you should be using for bass success**

**I**f there is one question that seems to confuse a lot of anglers who are looking at getting into the lure fishing it's 'what lures do I need for bass fishing?'. If it's any help, I remember cutting out the lure details from the packaging that a new lure is sold in and then putting them into my lure box to remind myself of the lure name, how much it weighs, and at what depth it is likely to swim. Believe me, I know how confusing lure fishing can be, which in turn is why I am so keen to help make it approachable, easy to understand, and easy to get into. Let's break this down into what hard lures we might need.

## WHAT ARE HARD LURES?

In my opinion they are most lures that aren't soft plastics, and while that might now sound nice and easy, wow, there are a lot of hard lures out there that can be fished in any number of different ways: hard lures that are designed to fish on the surface of the sea, lures that dive very shallow, lures that dive to a medium depth and are good for rough conditions, really deep-diving lures, metals, vibration lures, casting jigs; believe me, I could go on! Assuming we are talking about shore fishing for bass for the most part you're going to be targeting fish



**Whiplash  
Factory  
Spittin' Wire  
95mm 15.5g**





**Xorus  
Patchinko 125  
125mm 18g**

over shallow ground and avoiding really deep locations where you might target pollack on lure. Let's concentrate on groups of hard lures that are going to be the most useful for bass fishing, and then, in time, I am sure you will branch out and try different kinds of lures.

## SHALLOW LURES – DEEP POCKETS!

Before we get into this though, there's no getting away from how much some of these lures can cost. Some of the high-tech, stunningly designed, hard lures that originate in Japan can easily cost around £15-20. This is a lot of cash. However, if you do things right you really should be losing very few hard lures over the course of a season. However, when



**Chartreuse  
back Xorus  
Patchinko**



**IMA iBORN  
98F Shallow**



you are first getting into bass fishing it can be frustrating at times as you learn where certain lures can and cannot be used. Snagging up a £20 lure on a rock can leave one feeling a little low, and I talk from experience here! If you go looking you can often find cheaper alternatives to the lures I am going to talk about here, and while I know that some of the good ones will catch you plenty of bass, I do like to fish with the originals whenever possible.

Let's think about three simple categories of hard lures here - surface lures, shallow diving lures, and then medium diving lures for rougher water. Surface lures goes without saying – we are talking about hard lures that are designed to be fished along the top. As for shallow divers, we are talking about those specialist hard lures that will fish from just below the surface to 40cm deep. Medium divers swim in the 30-100cm range. Bear in mind that there are hundreds of hard lures out there that will no doubt catch bass, but I am going to concentrate on the ones that I tend to carry with me the most.

## **SURFACE LURES**

The first surface lure that goes in my lure box is always the long-casting and highly effective Xorus Patchinko II (27g, 140mm), a WTD (Walk The Dog) style surface lure that I trust implicitly to catch me bass in bouncier conditions. For a smaller, more subtle, surface lure I will tend to turn to either the Whiplash

Factory Spittin' Wire (95mm, 15.5g) or the IMA Salt Skimmer (14g, 110mm), but the Savage Gear Slap Walker in the 10cm/10g and the 12.5cm/20g sizes are spending more and more time in my lure boxes. Both of them cast incredibly well; indeed, I always favour surface lures which cast well into a headwind and can cover lots of water. Other surface lures very much worth looking at are the Lucky Craft Gunfish, Xorus Patchinko 125 and 100, IMA Chappy, Seadra Surface LaunceR, Tackle House Vulture, Lurenzo Espetit (various sizes available), and the three different sizes of Savage Gear Pop Walker 2.0.

Most of us are going to be bass fishing over shallow ground and therefore we need hard lures that are going to swim nice and shallow and not spend all their time snagging up and costing us a fortune in replacements. The two shallow divers I tend to carry are the IMA Komomo SF-125 (125mm, 16g), and the lethal little IMA iBorn 98F (98mm, 13g). Both lures cast well and swim very shallow indeed, to the point that I don't fish them in rougher conditions because they are swimming so close to the surface that too much turbulence knocks them off course. Another lethal shallow diver is the Tackle House Feed Shallow, and especially the 128mm version. It doesn't cast as well as the SF-125, but it's caught many big bass for many bass anglers.

One slightly unconventional shallow-diving hard lure which has really become an essential part of my fishing is the Savage Gear Sandeel

**The IMA  
Sasuke 120**





Pencil in the 90mm, 125mm and 150mm sizes. Extremely long-casting, all you need to do is blast it out and then wind it back in. The Sandeel Pencil sinks if you allow it to, but if you get it moving after it lands then it swims very shallow with an incredibly subtle action.

## MEDIUM DIVERS

The biggest family of hard lures here is the medium divers, or to be more specific, lures that are going to swim at a shallow to medium sort of depth. Some are going to cross over with the shallow diving lures and enable you to fish shallow ground with them, whereas others are born to fish slightly deeper ground and rougher conditions. It's a generalisation I know, but let's refer to these hard lures as "minnows", or medium diving minnows – look at their shape and you can see the resemblance to such prey species as sandeels, mullet and joey mackerel. There really are any number of different lures we could put into this category, but I am going to concentrate on a few favourites.

My go-to lure for rougher conditions is the amazing IMA Hound 125F Glide. It's amazing how a lure of this size can cut so well into a headwind. It's also brilliant in current. I love the



Savage Gear  
Sandeel  
Pencil SW  
125



Xorus  
Patchinko 125  
125mm 18g

IMA Sasuke 120 and 140 lures; they cast a long way and really 'bite' into rougher seas. They also swim with a very strong action; as do the IMA/ DUO Nabarone 125F which is a killer-casting, regular minnow type of hard lure that you can swim fairly shallow if you get your rod tip up and slow the retrieve down a bit. Still the biggest bass I reckon I have ever hooked but lost was on a sardine red belly coloured Nabarone 125F. The fish still haunts me to this day!

## HEAVY METAL

We also need to mention metal lures which I would turn to in the surf especially, and top of the list for me is the Savage Gear Surf Seeker in the 30g, 35g, and 40g sizes. Lots of other metal lures will work for you by the way, but

for me the Seeker is the perfect mix of cutting through strong winds, dealing with turbulent conditions, and swimming shallow if you keep the speed fast. Don't just use metals in the surf though, they are far more useful than that.

You won't go wrong with any of the lures mentioned here. One thing you might want to note is that, metals aside, there isn't a hard lure above that weighs more than about 28g, which means that the lure rods we discussed earlier will be ideal. I tend to use a more powerful 9ft 6in lure rod around the 45g to 50g casting weight for surf or much rougher conditions; this works well with the heavier metal lures if I need them. ■



An 11lb bass  
caught using  
a Savage Gear  
Gravity Stick  
Paddletail



# SOFT LURES

**Do you know your paddletails from your twitch baits? Henry Gilbey helps to decipher the world of soft plastic lures and recommends a selection that will catch bass whatever the conditions**

**I**f you had looked in my lure boxes a few years ago, you would have mainly seen hard lures in there. Now I can assure you that it's a very different picture. I wouldn't go lure fishing for bass these days without soft plastic lures. Soft lures, soft plastics, call them what you will, but if there is anything within lure fishing for bass that has created more of an impact over the last few years then I am not aware of it. Soft plastics are

changing how we target these magnificent fish, and while we have multiple hard lures which can do a lot for us, it's soft plastics that help us to take the next step and really start covering a multitude of more bases.

Imagine you're fishing a bass mark where part of it is very shallow, rocky and weedy (many of my marks!) and because you quite like your hard lures that you've spent a small fortune on, you know you can't get even the ultra-shallow





divers through there without snagging up – but you know there are bass in there. What about a lovely run of current pouring out of an estuary that screams bass, but you simply haven't got a hard lure that is in any way designed to get down on the bottom and bump around as the current takes it? These are two classic bass fishing situations which call for the use of soft plastics.

## PADDLETAILS

A paddletail is a very easy soft lure to fish with and much more versatile than you might imagine. The (paddle) tail on the end of a paddletail or shad moves or thumps enticingly in the water either when you retrieve or lift the lure, or otherwise when the lure is dropping through the water column. Soft plastics are often fishing away when you, the angler, is



Savage Gear  
Savage  
Minnow  
10cm



basically doing nothing. My soft plastic fishing for bass got a whole lot easier when the French company Fiiish released their outstanding Black Minnow. There I was, confused as hell about what sort of jig heads should go with what paddletails, and that's before you even start thinking about the weights of jig heads and sizes of the lures.

Then along comes the Fiiish Black Minnow system and suddenly it all makes perfect sense. I can match the right body to the right head and to the right hook. Suddenly, I am fishing properly! I also now have Savage Gear's Savage Minnow and Sandeel V2 lures, plus weedless versions of them both, so my life is essentially complete!

## TECHNIQUE

Bumping paddletails along the bottom in a run of current can be deadly. Simply let them trundle down and trust the current and natural contours on the seabed to keep the lure working. Alternatively, try a sink and draw type of movement where you lift the lure up and then allow it to drop back down. The beauty with this is that whenever the tail on the back of the lure is thumping away due

to the lure moving, the lure is fishing, and it's amazing how often you will get a bite when the lure is dropping back down through the water column.

You don't have to fish this sink and draw method only along the bottom. In bouncier sea conditions especially a paddletail can really work well in deeper water where you can either use it with that sink and draw technique to search the different depths, or simply swim it like a hard lure; whack it out, wind it in, and literally bump it along the bottom over rougher ground trusting in the weedless design of the lure. It doesn't guarantee it won't snag up, but your chances of it happening are hugely reduced. Fishing paddletails like this over shallow reefs can be deadly, but sometimes you might get pestered with wrasse, and these scrappy fish are masters at biting the tails off your paddletails!

I also fish certain paddletails by rigging them on belly-weight weedless hooks and swimming them just like hard lures. The advantage is that you can use them over the snaggiest and shallowest ground: a single weedless hook is far less prone to snagging than a bunch of exposed trebles, and I am convinced that a big weedless hook gives me a better, more secure, hook hold.



Savage Gear Gravity Stick Paddletail



Savage Gear Slender Scoop Shad 15cm

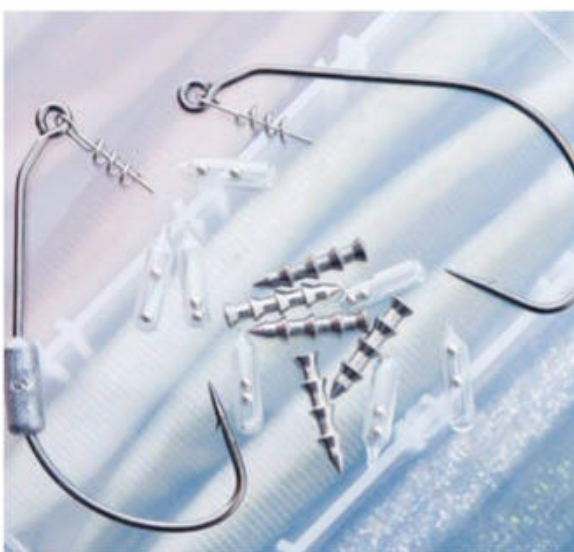


Savage Gear Gravity Stick Paddletail



Two sizes of the Savage Gear Sandeel V2 Weedless lure





Savage Gear Gravity Stick Kit

## GO-TO PADDLETAILS

My go-to lures for fishing like this are the Gravity Stick Paddletail and Pulsetail (slightly different tail design), the Slender Scoop Shads, and the chunkier OSP DoLive Shad. Go looking though and there are countless paddletails which can be rigged and swum like this. If it makes it easier, think of a soft plastic rigged like this as an alternative to a shallow-diving hard lure. If I had to choose, I'd go for paddletails rigged on weedless belly-weight hooks over shallow-diving hard lures. The soft plastics option here is more versatile in my opinion.

## TWITCH BAITS

Moving on from paddletails there are any number of different soft plastics, but in the spirit of trying to keep things simple, and also tailored to the sort of ground so many of us fish, let's look at another family of soft plastics that is designed to be fished shallow and subtly. We're talking about lures that are referred to as twitch baits, senkos or straight sticks. These lures once don't look nearly as appealing as most of those lovely shiny hard lures, but as with a paddletail, I simply would not go bass fishing without some of these soft plastics in my lure box. If there is one thing I have learnt about lure fishing for bass, it's that there are more times than I could have imagined when the fish are most keen on a far quieter and subtle lure – think about sandeels swimming around, for instance. The lure which got me into this more subtle fishing is the Senko, but don't let its simple appearance fool you. Believe it or not, simply winding a 5in or 6in Senko in when it's dark and calm over shallow ground can be lethal. They can also work really well during the day. Originally developed as a soft plastic lure for freshwater bass fishing in the US, Senkos can be rigged effectively with a weedless hook and nothing else. You can now fish this simple lure through and around almost anything. Straight-retrieve it, twitch/pause it, let it wash

around in current and backwash, put it on a jig head and bump it along the bottom - this is one versatile bass lure.

These days I tend to use soft plastics which are a bit more specialist in their design than the Senko and have better casting, more movement, and more options. I like the lures I carry with me to be able to do as much as possible for me. I went from the Senko to the OSP DoLive Stick which is an amazing lure for twitching around and subtly swimming. Then I got the chance to help make my ultimate twitchbait style lure with Savage Gear. The result was the Gravity Stick Pintail. I wanted to try and help make a sort of crossover lure between the Senko and the DoLive Stick – heavier in the tail end for better casting into the wind, plus a slot for a rattle and also a slot to add a weight spike for increased overall weight. I will rig all these lures on weedless hooks, but I will vary the use of a belly-weight or not depending on the sea conditions and how I am trying to fish the different lures.

The biggest thing with getting into soft plastics is the mindset, and I see it a lot when I am doing my guiding work in Ireland. A lot of these soft plastics will not feel like they are doing as much as some of the hard lures we use; but it's the bass who decide if a lure is doing something appealing. So, remember, less is often more. ■





A selection  
of OSP  
DoLive  
Sticks





# WEEDLESS & WEIGHTLESS

You've heard these words being used about lures, but what do they actually mean?

**An Irish bass caught on an OSP DoLive Stick**

**F**irst light rears its head over the most perfect shallow, rocky, weed-strewn ground you can imagine for bass fishing. The water is calm and clear and the hunch you can't ignore is that this is exactly the right situation for fishing with soft plastics, rigged weedless and weightless; the quiet, more subtle, approach to go with location and conditions. I clip my lure on, launch it out there, and start to deftly fish it back with a simple twitch, twitch, pause, style of retrieve. A few casts later there is very suddenly a hard tap on your rod tip. You twitch the weedless and weightless rigged soft plastic once more and then everything goes delightfully tight and your rod tip slams around. Bass on!

But how do you cast a 'weightless' lure in the first place? And what do you really mean by the word 'weedless'? Surely a weightless lure weighs nothing in the first place so it isn't exactly going to cast very well? And surely it's impossible for any fishing lure not to pick up bits of weed if they are suspended in the water?

I have been contacted numerous times by anglers asking how on earth you cast a

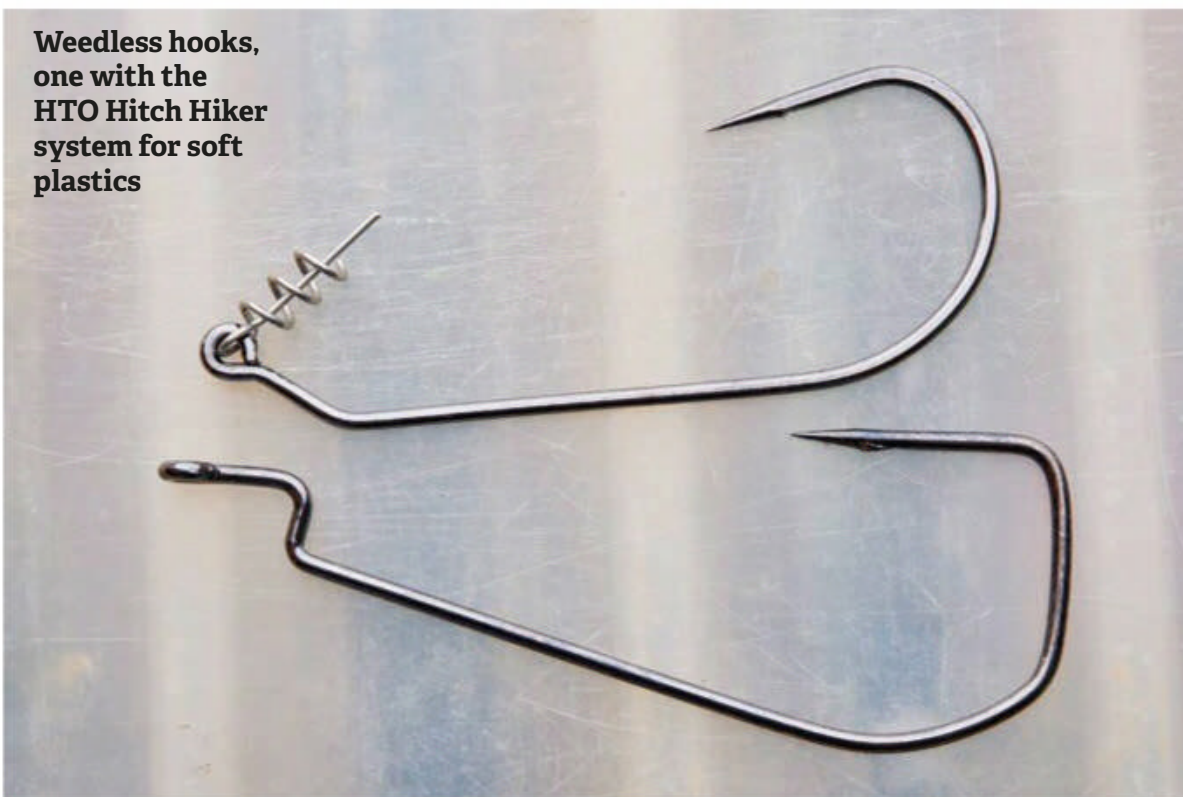
weightless soft plastic lure. Surely the word 'weightless' means that it doesn't weigh anything? So what does it mean in a fishing context then? In fact, we are talking a soft plastic lure to which we are adding no extra weight. A Texas rig for wrasse fishing requires the use of a ball or cone lead in front of the soft plastic. Or swimming a paddletail nice and shallow often works better with a small belly-weight on the hook to keep it stable? With weightless lures we are relying purely on the weight of the soft plastic to help us cast it out there; fishing it 'naked', as such.

## WHAT ABOUT WEEDLESS?

The design of the weedless hook helps you with fishing the soft plastic lure through and around heavy weed cover without it snagging up very much at all. Unlike a hard lure with multiple sets of trebles. The point on a weedless hook is bent down in a way to stop the point standing proud and snagging on everything. Don't worry, these are some clever hooks, and although that hook point ►



**Weedless hooks,  
one with the  
HTO Hitch Hiker  
system for soft  
plastics**



is not standing proud like on a regular J-hook, a weedless hook hooks fish just as well as your more normal hook.

Let's combine those two words and it should now make perfect sense. Let's say I am rigging a Gravity Stick Pintail or Pulsetail weedless and weightless. All I am doing is taking a lure out of the packet and rigging it on a weedless hook with no extra weight anywhere. I am going to cast it out and fish with it just like this. I don't have to avoid fishing certain areas for fear of snagging my lure up; indeed, this is often where the bass like to lie. Now you understand the terms let's look more at when and where to fish with lures rigged in this way.

## WHEN TO USE THEM

Think about one word above all others here – subtle. We are going for a very different approach to when we might need to bang very 'grippy' hard lures out into a rough sea and a strong headwind, or put soft plastics rigged on jig heads out into a run of current to bump them along the bottom. For the most part I am going to fish soft plastics rigged weedless/weightless in calmer, clearer, conditions over shallow ground – the sort of time when a great big hard lure landing noisily might well spook feeding bass. We want to be nice and quiet. Be careful with where you wade and think stealthy all the time. Aside from fly fishing, putting soft plastics out there like this is about as subtle as fishing for bass is going to get; and while these magnificent predators are perfectly at home in rough seas, there are also times when they will hunt the quiet areas in calm conditions.

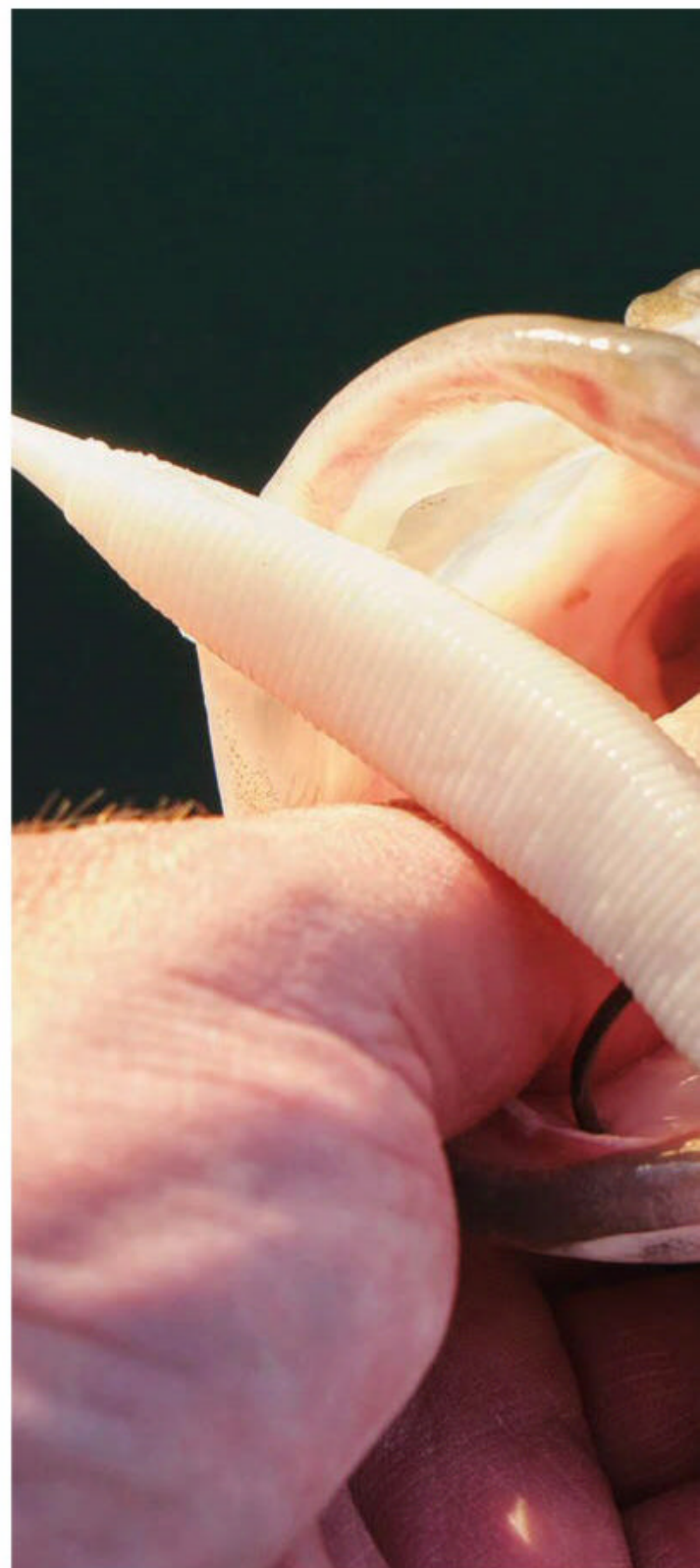
The whole crux to this style of bass fishing is feel and touch - the connection between your lure fishing rod and your lure. The more you can feel what is going on, the more connected you are to your lure and what is going on with

it. Sure, there are going to be times when your feel is drastically reduced – and this is mainly down to cross winds which grab your braid and reduce that tight connection between you and lure – but the main feel that we are after is a bass hitting you and then knowing either when to strike, or when to keep moving the lure to keep the bass coming at you. Don't be tempted to use heavy, powerful, spinning rods. You will find they are too tiring to hold for long periods, and they don't have a sensitive enough tip which responds to the movements are imparting to the lure.

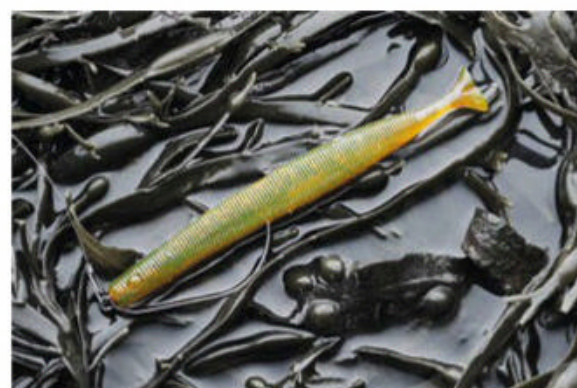
## HOW TO FISH THEM

IF I'm using a twitchbait-style soft plastic like the Savage Gear Gravity Stick Pintail, or the OSP DoLive Stick, I will tend to fish the DoLive Stick with a kind of 'twitch, twitch, pause, reel' sort of style. Basically, I am trying to bring the lure to life. With the Gravity Stick Pintail I will tend to fish with a similar style, but a touch slower. Both lures also respond well to a simple and slow straight retrieve, and the Gravity Stick Pulsetail is specifically designed to be fished like this. Remember, less action is often more.

There are no hard and fast rules here, but in general I will use the biggest weedless hook I can get away with. The Gravity Stick Pintail or Pulsetail takes a 6/0 weedless hook, and the 6'in size OSP DoLive Stick I like with a 5/0 weedless hook. I always go for weedless hooks that use a corkscrew or hitch hiker for attaching the lure. Without a doubt a soft plastic on a corkscrew lasts a bit longer than on a conventional weedless hook, but I will tend to stop using a soft plastic if it starts tearing up and replace it with an undamaged one. When I get home I will repair the damaged soft plastic with some of the ingenious Mend-It or Savage



**The weedless OSP DoLive Stick**



**Savage Gear Gravity Stick Pulsetail**





Gear Fix-It glue. This means I get as much use from my lures as possible.

Lures like this is another arrow to add to your quiver of techniques, and there are a number of long-casting, shallow-diving, hard lures that will effectively fish for bass over shallow ground. I can't get away from how many times though it's the subtle, quiet, and more measured approach which catch me bass when the hard lures just haven't worked. I am convinced that it's how quietly and subtly the plastics are fishing in shallow, clear, calm water which isn't spooking fish. ■

**A Cornish bass caught  
on a Savage Gear  
Gravity Stick Pintail**



**Try the weedless and weighless OSP DoLive Stick 6in**



# WHERE AND WHEN

**You've got your rod, reel, and lures sorted. But where and when should you go bass fishing? Henry Gilbey shares his advice on the two most important factors in finding fish**

**W**here should I go fishing and when should I fish there? If you ask me these are the two most important questions in saltwater fishing. Because there are so many factors involved in any kind of answer, they also happen to be the most difficult questions to get to grips with.

We all want to catch more and bigger fish, and, of course, there is one simple way to go about this – pick a random spot and fish it. Who knows, you may be incredibly lucky and turn up at this mark and clean up with some outstanding fishing. However, you and I both know that the chances of this happening are slim to zero! The 'where and when' matters with all kinds of fishing all around the world, but the big difference we have in saltwater fishing is tides.







**Night fishing  
under a full  
moon**

## SECRECY

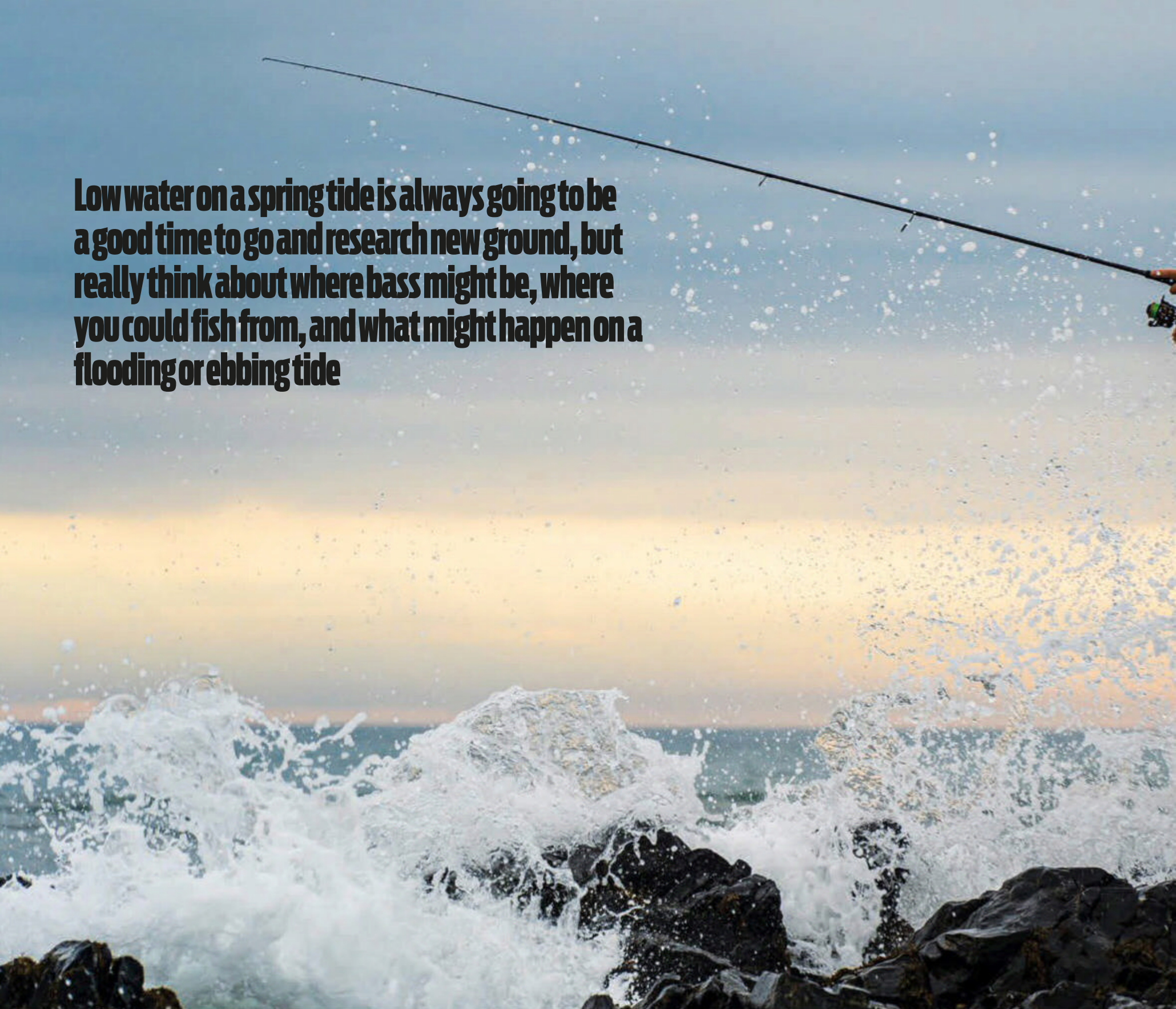
There is also one vital factor here that perhaps gets slightly brushed under the carpet because it's a tricky subject to broach. I am talking about the issue of secrecy, or one's desire to keep certain fishing locations quiet for any number of reasons. Like you, I am sure, I love going out fishing without there being crowds of other anglers about. I like fishing with mates, but lure fishing doesn't tend to benefit from there being loads of other anglers fishing the same water. I constantly feel torn because I want to try and help anglers out as much as I can, but we can't simply divulge most fishing marks. I am also very wary as well of illegal netting practices, and with big bass especially I am aware that a small percentage of anglers will kill everything

they catch. All this aside though, it's a big coastline and there's more than enough room for us all. A lot of people don't like walking very far or straying off the beaten track. I am fine with that as it leaves plenty of locations almost permanently nice and quiet!

The internet means we have never had more information on the coastline at our fingertips, and while a resource such as Google Maps is incredibly useful for getting an idea of the ground and access to it, at the end of the day I still do a lot of what I have always done, which is getting out there and actually walking around. I live in Cornwall yet there are so many parts of it that I have never seen, let alone fished. Yet from time to time I like to check out some new spots on Google Earth, take a drive ►

**Lure fishing in  
the surf for a  
lively bass**





**Low water on a spring tide is always going to be a good time to go and research new ground, but really think about where bass might be, where you could fish from, and what might happen on a flooding or ebbing tide**

out there, and get on the coastal path for a good look around. What I am really for is options. Whatever the weather or tides are doing, I want to try and have a few different choices on where I might go fishing.

## WHERE

It's going to help of course if you have some inkling that bass are regularly caught in the part of the coastline you are thinking about. As much as I love going over to the magical Isles of Scilly I know that for some unexplained reason they don't catch bass there, so I am not about to book a bass fishing trip! You therefore need to do some research and get some sort of feel for local catches.

When you have identified a section of coastline that looks like it might be worth checking out. Perhaps it's what looks like a nice section of shallow reef or a part of an

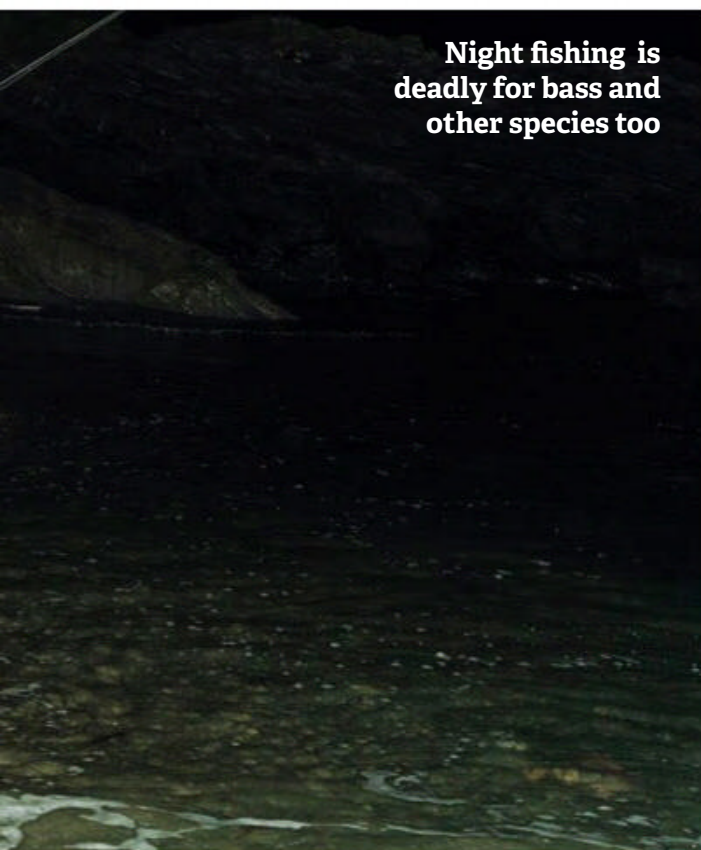
estuary where you think there could be a nice run of current. Whatever the case, you need to think about getting out there and having a proper look around. Online is great, but it's no substitute for getting a proper feel for a place. Low water on a spring tide is always going to be a good time to go and research new ground, but really think about where bass might be, where you could fish from, and what might happen on a flooding and ebbing tide. It's all very well identifying what could be a great reef to stand on and fish, but what happens when the tide start flooding in?

## WHEN

If you go at it with a bass sort of brain it's not that hard to find likely looking spots, but it's the when to fish them that to me is the most complicated to get to grips with. The question of when can encompass so many different







**Night fishing is deadly for bass and other species too**

factors: what time of year, what tide size, what states of the tide, what wind directions work best, how strong that wind can be before it's unfishable, how much swell the place can take, Does too much rainwater harm the fishing, does too much colour in the water mess things up? If these considerations weren't enough you then need to work out the best way to fish the mark.

What all really good anglers have in common is a thorough knowledge of the marks they fish. Sure, some anglers go far more in depth than others, but the simple fact is that when and where is always going to be the most important thing in fishing, and the more you strive to learn about the locations you fish, the better you will do. I will give you a few things to think about as you start to get to grips with where you have chosen to fish, and then from there you should start to build some patterns up that help you to narrow down when it's best to fish.

Firstly, don't assume that bass come in to feed only on a flooding tide – a lot of places I fish seem to work best on the ebb tide. In general, most of us prefer spring tides for bass fishing, but this is not always the case. Where I live I reckon a number of locations fish better on the smaller tides, albeit not the very smallest neaps. I tend not to like the biggest big spring

tides – logic says they should be good, but I generally prefer the smaller set of springs in a month. One theory I hear a lot is that the really big spring tides strip off shallow ground too fast for bass to properly hang around and feed, and to me this makes a lot of sense, but another argument is that the biggest tides open up more ground for the bass to hunt over.

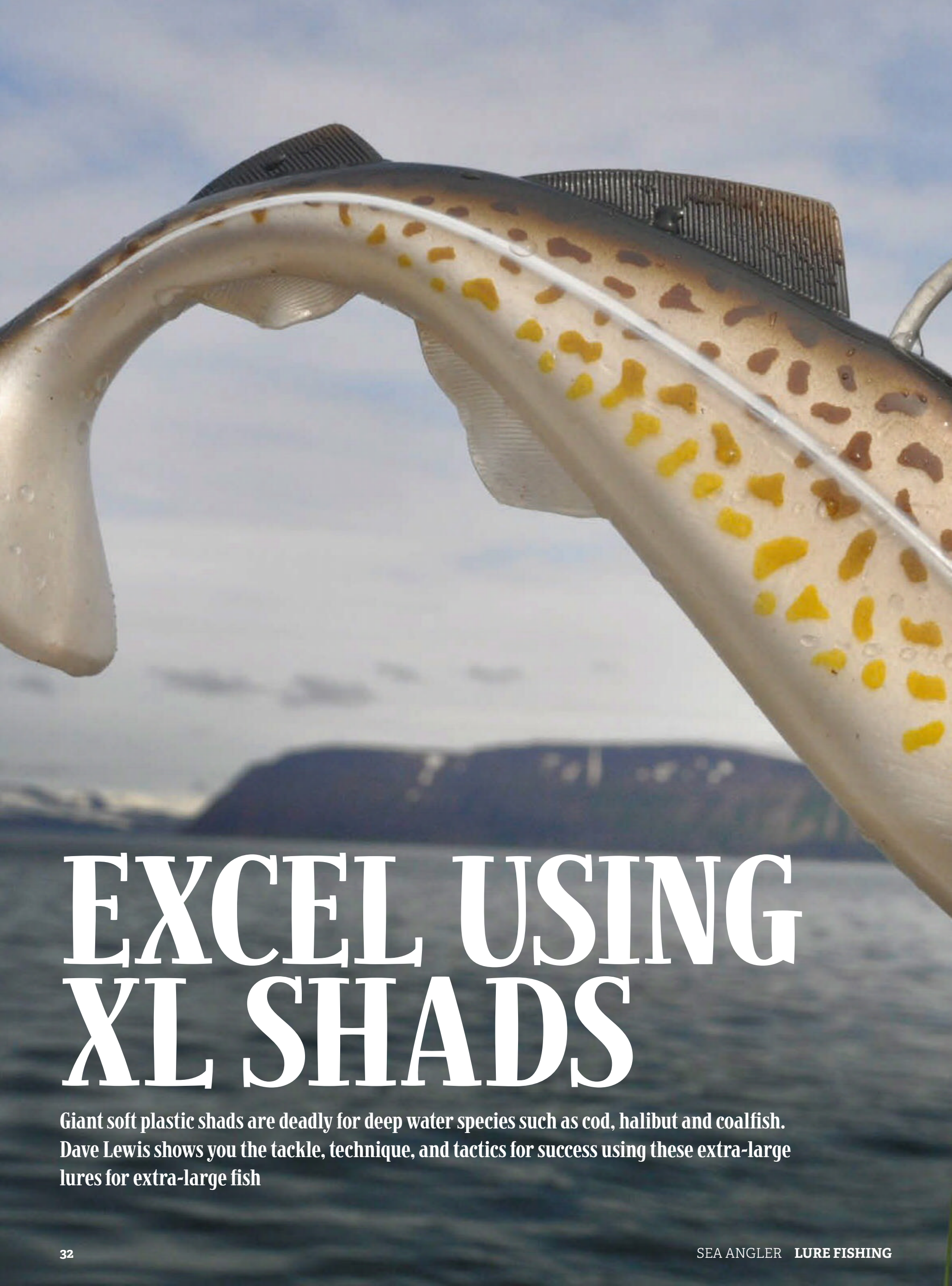
You might well find that onshore winds give you better fishing, but night fishing with lures is really changing what I think about bass marks, and at night I am more than comfortable with flat calm seas and offshore winds. You are looking for likely windows of bass activity, but don't let this then stop you fishing at other times on the same spot. It's all too easy to become dialled in to specific times and you could well end up missing out on other fish catching times in a tide. Rougher conditions over shallow, broken, ground will tend to colour the water up and fill it with weed much faster than on the deeper marks.

Finally, it's great to fish with rods and lures that help you to cover a huge amount of water, but never forget just how close in bass can feed, especially at night. There is no science to any of this, but follow this advice and it will give you a good starting point to get out there and explore. ■



**Time for a change of lure**





# EXCEL USING XL SHADS

Giant soft plastic shads are deadly for deep water species such as cod, halibut and coalfish. Dave Lewis shows you the tackle, technique, and tactics for success using these extra-large lures for extra-large fish





**F**or many years I only ever used metal jigs. When fishing for big fish at deep water destinations such as Iceland and Norway. Certainly, metal jigs – or pirks, as they are widely known – are highly effective, though fishing them correctly is a very physical form of angling. You have to continually work these lures in order to impart the necessary action and convince the fish your lure is something tasty to eat and not simply a cold lump of painted lead. Added to which, almost all designs of metal jig work most efficiently when jigged in as near to a vertical line beneath the boat as possible, and when working deep water with anything other than the slowest of drifts this invariably means lots of reeling up as soon as the lure starts to angle away from the vertical.

I don't think I have actually used a metal jig at either of these destinations for the better part of a decade. These days I almost exclusively fish using large weighted soft plastic shads such as the Westin Crazy Daisy and Big Bob, or the now sadly discontinued Storm Wildeye Giant Jigging Shad. These larger jigging shads typically weigh more than 16oz and can be 12 inches or more in length. Smaller weighted shads such as Storm Ultra Shads, and the many other similar lures various around 6-8in in length and weighing in the region 4-6oz, can also be hugely effective lures. ►



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## TACKLING UP

I fish the heavier shads using a 20-30lb class boat rod matched with a Shimano Torium 16 or 20 high speed retrieve reel, which makes retrieving lures from deep water as easy as possible. The reel is loaded with around 30-40lb PowerPro terminating in a 20ft clear monofilament shock leader of around 80lb. The larger lures are each fitted with a short 2-3ft 'tail' cut from around 150-200lb monofilament, which is attached to the end of the leader via a very strong swivel. The purpose of this heavy 'tail' is to resist abrasion and cuts from the teeth of species such as halibut, ling and wolffish. The smaller shads are fished on a medium heavy action spinning rod matched with a 5000 sized spinning reel, such as the excellent Shimano Saragosa, which I load with 20lb PowerPro terminating in a 12ft leader of clear 30lb monofilament.

In very deep water I don't think the colour of lure makes a lot of difference. However, if the fish are feeding closer to the surface using a lure that closely replicates a bait fish in both colour and, perhaps most importantly, size, will offer an advantage. In deeper water it is how the lure is fished, rather than its colour, which is the deciding factor as to whether a fish chooses to eat or ignore it.

## TECHNIQUE

Fishing big shads is very straightforward. Start by dropping the lure all of the way down to the bottom. When it reaches the seabed bounce it around for a minute or so while slowly retrieving 12-20ft of line, before dropping it back down to regain bottom contact and repeating the process. If nothing hits start a steadily retrieve, working the lure up through the entire water column. This causes the lures rubber tail to vibrate enticingly, and it is this natural action that most soft plastic lures have that is key to their success.

I fish the smaller shads by casting them down drift, that is in the direction in which the boat is drifting. This allows the lighter lure to sink as fast as possible down through the water column as the drifting boat catches up, thus preventing it from being an excessively long distance away by the time it does make bottom contact. When fishing smaller lures some species such as coalfish respond best to a faster retrieve but experimenting with various speeds of retrieve will show you what works best on the day.

There are several advantages that rubber shads have over metal jigs. Firstly, when using the larger size lures you are going to catch a lot fewer smaller fish, as these simply cannot fit the big lures in their mouths. Secondly, whereas jigging often results in fish being foul hooked, when using shads almost every fish you catch will be cleanly hooked in the mouth, which of course is preferable when you intend to release fish. Finally, when a fish bites a metal jig it



**Wolffish are known for their willingness to snaffle an XL lure**

immediately realises it is not real, but when they grab at a rubber shad most will remain interested for surprisingly long distances, before finally eating it.

## FIND THE DEPTH

Fish can hit your lure at any stage of the retrieve, right up to the surface. Big coalfish frequently feed on the surface, and on numerous occasions I have clearly seen 30lb plus cod inhale a lure just below the boat. On one or two occasions I have even watched halibut follow and then inhale a big lure. It is therefore essential to work the entire water column to identify at which depth most fish are feeding. Failing to do this, and concentrating on fishing on or very to the bottom, is perhaps the single biggest reason why some anglers struggle to catch fish at these destinations. Colour coded braided lines are a big bonus when fish are holding at a specific depth, as once you have established the key depth you can drop the lure straight back down into and

keep it working within the most productive zone.

Bites range from a solid slam that stops the lure dead in its tracks, to a delicate plucking as the fish pulls away at the lure's tail. In either case, never strike. Keeping winding at exactly the same rate of retrieve: Any change in the lures speed or action will almost always result in the fish losing interest. Keep winding until everything goes tight, then set the hook by firmly lifting the rod.

As already mentioned, when fishing metal jigs it is important to maintain as near to a vertical line as possible, but when fishing a shad maintaining a vertical line isn't as important. The design of the lure ensures they swim perfectly regardless of the angle of your line, and the fact that most shads are rigged with a single up-facing hook means the chances of a lure snagging bottom, even if it is trailing many yards behind the boat, are minimal.

Follow this advice and your big fish adventure will result in more hook-ups and a guaranteed smile on your face at the end of the trip! ■







# WRECK FISHING

There's a skill to drifting lures over wrecks for pollack, ling, cod and bass. Dave Lewis shares over 30 years' of experience on how to get it right

**The Red Gill is as deadly as it's ever been**



I have been using lures over offshore wrecks for over 30 years and over the decades there have been few changes to the most popular choice of terminal rig, or the basic technique employed to present a lure over the rusting hulk of a wreck, or a reef.

Back in the 1980s 'the' lure to use was an artificial sandeel, more specifically a 172mm Red Gill. Popular colours then were red, black and orange, just as they are today. Red Gill lures remain a hugely effective lure, notably for various species including pollack, bass, cod and coalfish. These days anglers turn up for a day offshore wrecking with a huge variety of different lures, in all of the colours of the rainbow. Jelly worms, shads and a host of different soft plastic-based lures are all used, almost all to good effect. The key piece of advice on choosing a lure is to start off using exactly what the skipper recommends. As the session progresses keep a close eye on what other anglers are using, especially those catching the most fish.

## RIGGING UP

Most anglers fish lures over wrecks or a reef in conjunction with some sort of boom. When I began wrecking, wire 'French booms' were widely used, but these days most anglers use long 150-300mm plastic, tubi-booms to create what is, in essence, a running leger rig: the modern equivalent of what used to be known as a Flying Collar.

**A nice coalie takes a pink one**





The rig is simplicity itself and hugely efficient, hence its enduring popularity. Start by sliding the plastic boom onto the leader if you are fishing braid, or directly onto the mainline if not. These days it is rare to see anglers using monofilament for this style of fishing, as braid of about 20lb really is vastly superior in every way. The boom is essential if you want to keep tangles to a minimum. Its purpose is not only to attach the lead, but to help keep the lure at the end of the long trace well clear of the main line during the long descent down to the bottom.

Following the boom, slide a small bead onto the leader to act as a buffer against the knot, next tie a small, good quality, swivel at the end. The trace line should be cut from good quality clear monofilament between 20-30lb. Some anglers prefer to use fluorocarbon, but personally, when fishing in a couple of hundred feet of water, I feel mono is fine. Some anglers tie a second swivel midway in the trace line, claiming this helps to prevent tangles. In my opinion a second swivel is entirely unnecessary as rather than prevent tangles, it actually causes them! What's more, another swivel requires two additional, unnecessary, knots. The lure is then attached to the end of the flowing trace.

## LEAD CHOICE

The shape of the lead weight is critical for this style of fishing. Always use a bomb shaped or spherical lead. These fall smoothly down through the water column which helps to minimise the risk of tangles – the curse of the wreck lure angler! Flat-bottomed leads tend to tumble and roll, twisting the line, and are best avoided. The weight of lead will be dependent on the water depth and the speed of drift: 200-300g, 8-12oz, is about right for most wrecking scenarios. Attaching the lead using either a length of weak nylon line, what is known as a rotten bottom, or an elastic band, helps restrict tackle losses to just the lead should it become snagged.

## TECHNIQUE

Simply dropping the terminal rig over the side and letting it fall rapidly down to the bottom will almost guarantee a tangle. At the start of the drift throw the lure over the side and wait a moment for the trace to fully straighten out as the boat drifts, then drop the lead and allow the rig to descend slowly down to the bottom. It is imperative that during the entire decent to the bottom you control the flow of line off the reel spool using light thumb pressure. Allowing the rig to plummet freely will most likely the result will be a horrible, tangled mess. As a rule of thumb, the faster the drift the faster you can safely drop down without risking a tangle, and visa-versa.



**This wreckling took a lure**

Once you feel the rig tap bottom you can start to retrieve. The optimum speed of retrieve varies from day to day, and even throughout the various stages of the tide on the same day. Some days the fish will respond best to a lure fished very slowly. Other times you need to fish the lure faster in order to attract any interest. Experimentation at the start of each day is therefore important.

Watch closely how fast other anglers who are catching fish are working their lures, noting whether or not they are using high speed retrieve reels. Takes from even big fish are often

surprisingly gentle affairs. The first indication will often be a delicate plucking on the end of your line, as the fish mouths the tail of the lure. When you detect a fish do not strike, speed up, or slow down the rate of retrieve.

Keep reeling at exactly the same speed, and more often than not the fish will eventually succumb to temptation and inhale the lure. When you feel the weight of the fish, again do not strike. Keep reeling until everything goes solid, and only then set the hook by lifting the rod, at which point you had better be sure you had correctly set the clutch on your reel! ■



**The rubber band prevents tackle losses**



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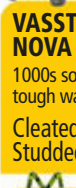
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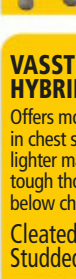
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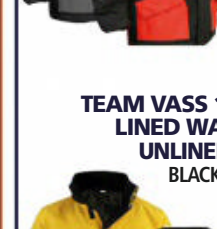
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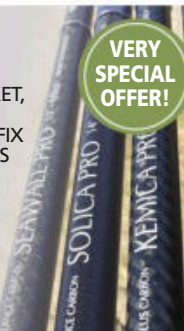
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